

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Sackcloth...
David Hewson reveals why BBC people are wringing their hands.
And ashes
Bernard Levin might not be addicted to tobacco, but he would defend the death people's right to smoke.



Through a glass...
The Books Page features a beery history and the biography of the Catholic priest who was the model for Dorian Gray.
Darkly
The subject of the Times Profile is Roald Dahl, writer of charming children's fantasies and ghoulish tales for grown-ups.

Pension rise plan may cost £350m

The Treasury is planning to ask about 2.5 million teachers, council and health service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of their salary. It is estimated that it would cost employees up to £350m. Page 2

Early holiday for Commons

The Government took the unusual step of announcing months in advance that the Commons will rise for Easter in the week ending April 13. Easter is late next year.

Spain unhappy

Madrid's growing exasperation with Paris over both Basque refugees and EEC entry provided a difficult backdrop to talks between President Mitterrand and Señor Gonzalez Page 8

NGA action

Lawyers representing the National Graphical Association and High Court sequestrators have met in an attempt to resolve a dispute over the "export" of union funds to Dublin



£7.6m arts aid

A £7.6m package to aid the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House and several regional opera companies has been announced. Page 2

Moors killer ill

Ian Brady, serving a life sentence in Gartree prison, Leicestershire, for the Moors murders, has been admitted to the prison hospital. His weight has dropped from 13st to 7st 12lb

Thatcher wish

Mrs Thatcher would choose to be Mother Teresa of Calcutta if there was a chance to be anyone else, she revealed on television

Leader, page 13
Letters: On local government, from Mr G. Alderman and others; Turkey, from Mrs D. Spearman, and Dr D. Seddon
Leading articles: Rate Bill; PLO; Jamaican election
Features, pages 10-12
A trade union call for a *quid pro quo*: the Japanese voters' blow to closer links with the West, who's soft on the Provos now? Spectrum: The merchandising of Flora Thompson, Wednesday Page: dealing with obscene phone calls; Joanna, Lumley's Diary.
Obituary, page 14
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Rate-capping Bill faces strongest test in the Lords

By Julian Haviland and Hugh Clayton

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided that he would have to resign if Parliament fails to enact the Rates Bill published yesterday.

But in private, as in public, he has expressed no doubt that the Bill, which will limit the power of local authorities to raise rates, will become law without major changes. His talk of resigning is a mark of this apparent confidence.

At the same time, there have been new signs that Mr Jenkin is concerned at the strength of opposition being assembled against the Bill in the House of Lords.

In discussions with peers he has suggested that the Bill raises constitutional questions for them, since its provisions are concerned with taxation and expenditure and since it was promised in a manifesto endorsed by the electorate.

The second point is one on which members of the unelected House are sensitive. But the first carries an implied threat which Conservative peers yesterday did not like, and which they consider empty.

Under the Parliament Act, 1911, the House of Lords has no power to amend a money Bill, dealing with such matters as taxation and money supply. But the definition of a money Bill under the Act excludes, according to Enkine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, "taxation, money or loan raised by local authorities for local purposes".

There is no doubt that the Bill will be strongly resisted by

many Conservative, as well as Opposition and cross-bench peers, who will be within their constitutional rights.

The Bill, which received its first Commons reading yesterday, showed that the Government has rejected almost all criticism from its own supporters.

Probable timetable

1984
Spring: Rates Bill becomes law.
Summer: Ministers reveal councils to be capped.

December: Individual rate support grants for 1985 announced; councils to be capped learn rate ceilings.

1985
January: Capped councils expected to "appeal".
March: Government seeks Commons approval of capping.
April: Demands issued to ratepayers: capped councils must include signed guarantees that demands are within government ceilings - otherwise ratepayers can refuse to pay.

porters about "capping" rates of councils which ignore government spending guidelines and issue soaring rate demands.

The Bill will require ministers to name the first candidates for "capping" in the middle of 1984. It sets out two powers. One will enable ministers to list what they consider the most outrageous high-spenders in one year and fix legally-enforceable ceilings to their rates for the next.

Mr Jenkin said yesterday that rate demands above government ceilings would not be legally enforceable. The plans will probably affect only Labour-led authorities. Prime candidates if such powers were available now would include the Greater London Council, several London boroughs and some Labour-led county councils.

But the Bill includes a reserve power to "cap" rates of all councils in England and Wales. Mr Jenkin, aware of strong Conservative opposition to the general proposal, insisted that its main purpose was to act as a deterrent - "to be used only if absolutely necessary."

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, described the Bill as "a much-needed restraint on the tiny minority of town and county councils which have for too long been spending beyond their means."

The Bill attracted little support elsewhere, despite the presence of powers to exempt hundreds of councils, most led by Conservatives.

Councils whose total spending is less than £10m a year will be exempt from selective "capping", and the Bill allows ministers to remove particular councils from the reserve general scheme.

The Bill also entitles ministers to seek parliamentary powers to raise the £10m spending barrier below which councils cannot be earmarked for selective rate-capping. But the Association of District

Continued on back page, col 1

Police trace dealer who sold bomb car

By Stewart Tendler

The Austin 1300 GT used by Provisional IRA terrorists to bomb Harrods was bought for cash by a man answering an advertisement in a London local newspaper last month.

The car was offered for sale for a few hundred pounds by a part-time dealer who often trades in old vehicles.

The buyer turned up at the dealer's house at night after telephoning and left with the blue car, registration KFP 252K, following the pattern used by another Provisional IRA group operating in London some years ago. They too acquired a vehicle through an advertisement and then stored it.

Yesterday Commander William Huckleby, head of the anti-terrorist squad and in charge of the search for the Harrods bombers, said that an artist's impression of the car buyer may soon be issued.

Mr Huckleby would not say how much had been paid for the car and would not identify the dealer because evidence might later be required in a court case.

Yesterday the last of the forensic evidence from the scene of the bombing in Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, on Saturday was taken to the Metropolitan Police laboratories in Lambeth and to explosive experts at Woolwich Arsenal.

Mr Huckleby said that 180 dustbins and seven builders' skips filled with debris had been taken from the street.

The police have also removed eight of the cars parked by Harrods at the time of the blast, three shop windows and the remains of green and gold Harrods canopies.

The evidence produced from the forensic investigation will be sent to the special inquiry centre, which is now spread across an entire floor at Scotland Yard. The centre and its operations room are believed to be the largest the Yard has ever assembled.

The police have brought in specialized methods of cross-reference and collation for the inquiry, which will try to pinpoint events between midday and 1.21 pm, when the bomb exploded in one of London's busiest streets.

They are using the knowledge gained from a course in the latest techniques of handling data and intelligence provided by an American company in September.

Today Mr Huckleby will appear at the opening of inquests into the five people who died in the blast. Their post-mortem examinations took almost two days. The inquests, to be held by the Westminster coroner, are expected to be adjourned after a brief hearing.

Yesterday PC John Gordon, who lost his right leg when he was caught by the blast with his alsaian sniffer dog, underwent an operation. Surgeons may have to amputate his left leg, Scotland Yard said last night that his condition was "critical but stable".

Since the blast the police have dealt with at least 800 false alarms and yesterday two men were arrested after an attempt to hold up Lloyds Bank in Kensington High Street with a package which was claimed to contain explosives. The bank was evacuated for a time while the police examined the package.

There was criticism yesterday of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for holding

Continued on back page, col 6

Ireland set to toughen law on IRA

By Richard Ford, Dublin

The Government of the Irish Republic is to consider toughening laws on incitement to violence and hatred but has postponed a decision on banning Provisional Sinn Féin, the Provisional IRA's political wing.

While 2,000 soldiers and police continued searching woods in Leitrim, where they believe Mr Don Tidy's Provisional IRA kidnappers are trapped, the Cabinet met in Dublin to consider a series of security reports.

Dr Garret FitzGerald promised a review of the threat posed to the state by subversives as anger mounted at the death of two members of the security forces in shoot-out during Mr Tidy's rescue.

The Government security committee met before the full Cabinet knowing some ministers favoured an immediate ban.

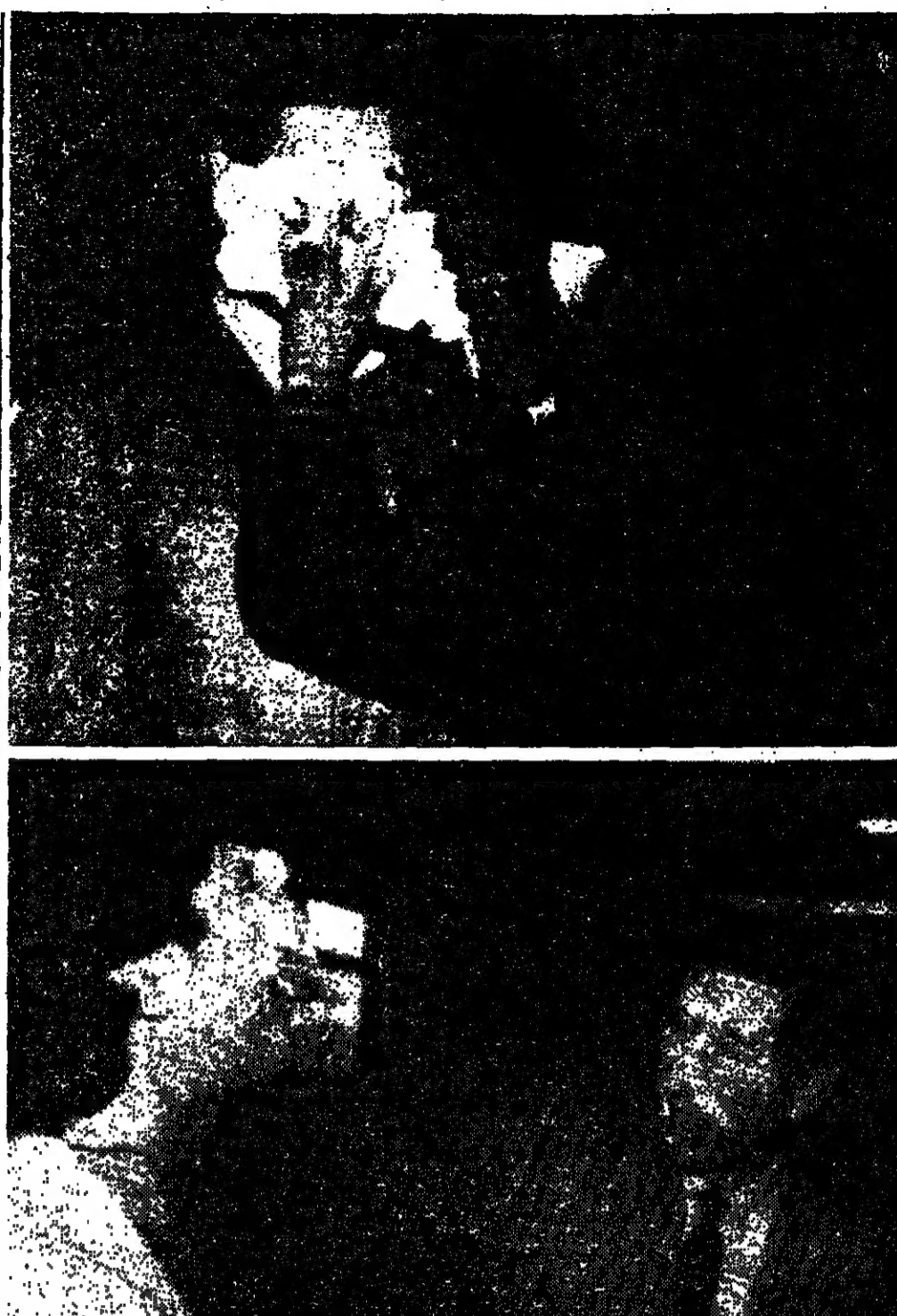
Eventually ministers decided to review existing legislation allowing for sentences of 20 years conviction of incitement to violence to see if it could be made more effective in "prosecuting and convicting those promoting the activities of subversive terrorists by incitement to violence or hatred".

In a clear reference to Provisional Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Socialist Party, political wing of Irish National Liberation Army, the Cabinet also decided to consider further measures against the "insidious actions of those promoting terrorist activities while claiming to be unassociated with them".

In the review the Government will consult the police and army but, more unusually, will involve Mr Charles Haughey, the opposition leader, who has promised his Fianna Fail party's support.

In its attempt to placate public opinion the Government will consider further restrictions on reports of Provisional Sinn Féin activities.

Pledge to resist, page 2



Target practice: Pie-in-the-face day for the Prince of Wales during a visit to a newly-opened community centre in Manchester yesterday. Katie Slater, aged 15, gained royal assent before launching her foam pie at the Prince (top) and Mr Stephen Starkie, director of Bolton's Hallucination Theatre, became the target of the Prince.

Israeli jets watch Arafat's tiny armada sail away

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

Escorted by five French warships and an aircraft carrier, Mr Yasser Arafat and his 4,000 guerrillas left their last Lebanese enclave at Tripoli yesterday on board five Greek ferries.

They sailed under a diminutive UN flag, watched all the time by the Israeli Air Force, their military power finally extinguished by the Arabs.

The Israelis sent their reconnaissance jets to watch Mr Arafat's tiny armada sail at dusk amid the thunder of farewell gunfire from the guerrillas on deck and the explosions of rocket-propelled grenades just outside the Tripoli port.

Mr Arafat called the evacuation a sad day for the Palestinians, while Abu Jihad, who was celebrating victory.

PLO officials in Tripoli were suggesting before their departure, however, that Mr Arafat may try to stage a political coup by travelling soon to Amman to reopen negotiations with King Hussein of Jordan for autonomy on the occupied West Bank under the terms of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

Reports circulating in Tripoli said that the King would be happy to see the PLO chairman, but the Americans could well question whether Mr Arafat - if he at last decides to negotiate - any longer represents the Palestinian people.

Mr Arafat called the evacuation a sad day for the Palestinians, while Abu Jihad,

Mr Khalil Wazzir, his military commander, talked angrily of the Syrian "conspiracy" which had brought about the PLO's departure.

Curiously, even in his moment of utter defeat, Mr Arafat appeared anxious to keep open the option of future talks with Damascus. In a short and slightly strained ceremony late on Monday night, at which he thanked the Mayor and city fathers of Tripoli for their "support" - a word with which the burghers might not have agreed - he also said that he had not asked for the battle.

Jerusalem: Israel last night defended its policy of veiled threats against the PLO. Continued on back page, col 1

Donaldson memo 'mole' dismissed

By John Witherow

A junior civil servant was dismissed from the Department of Employment yesterday for leaking a confidential memo, which showed that Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, gave advice to the Government on industrial relations reforms.

The administration trainee, a graduate who had been in the department for 18 months, was suspended earlier this month without pay after details of the document were published in *The Guardian* newspaper and *Time* magazine on November 30.

The document, which the Department of Employment said had been stolen, showed that Sir John discussed legislative proposals last year with Mr Michael Quinlan, then permanent secretary designate of the department.

Wage deals too high says Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Pay settlements are still too high and need to come down further to improve industry's competitiveness, the Bank of England says in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin*. But it is more optimistic about growth prospects than it was a few months ago.

The Bank has come round to the Treasury view that the economy is growing at about 3 per cent a year. It believes that improved company finances could herald a pick-up in capital spending, which will help to sustain the recovery once consumer spending slackens.

The Bank is still worried about industry's ability to compete internationally. The Bulletin points to big improvements in productivity in the past three years and the fall in the pound since autumn 1982 which has helped to improve competitiveness.

British costs, however, are still high by international comparison and "moderation in wage increases therefore remains very important," the Bank says.

The Bank would like to see pay settlements falling faster and although deals in the new pay round are down slightly, inflation has fallen faster over the same period.

The Bulletin criticizes the US Administration for running a big budget deficit. This has kept interest rates higher than necessary and threatens the continuation of the world recovery, it says.

Further confirmation that economic activity is still picking up came yesterday with publication of the revised output measure of gross domestic product, which rose 1.2 per cent in the third quarter to a level 2.2 per cent above the third quarter of 1982. Kenneth Fleet, page 15

£70m engine deal frozen by Leyland

Leyland Trucks has suspended a £35m investment programme at its Bathgate plant in Scotland.

The decision freezes the £70m deal with the Cummins Engine Company in the United States for a Bathgate-built engine due to go into production in 1985.

Leyland Trucks has suffered a substantial fall in foreign demand and is reviewing investment plans. The management say the company can no longer endure present trading losses. Increases in production or prices have been ruled out.

The Cummins deal, sealed 15 months ago, was described by the Leyland group chairman, Mr David Andrews, as vital for the future of Bathgate.

Union leaders at the plant have requested a meeting with the management and with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to ally fears about the plant's future.

Judgment on title deferred

A retired army colonel will have to wait until early next year to learn whether or not he will succeed to the ancient Scottish barony of Dunbar of Melburn.

Yesterday Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms reserved his judgment after hearing two days of legal debate before the Lyon court in Edinburgh. Colonel William Dunbar, aged 90, of Herne Bay, Kent is challenging the right of his cousin, Sir Jean Ivar Dunbar, a former American jockey, aged 65, of New York, to the title of 13th baronet.

Airline gifts cost £200,000

British Airways are spending £200,000 to give all of its passengers a special Christmas present this week.

Starting yesterday the airline was giving away Wedgwood plates and crystal tumblers to passengers at Heathrow airport. Children will receive records and tapes of their favourite music or stories. The airline carries 14,000 passengers a day through Heathrow and the gifts will be presented to passengers until Friday.

Seizure of sex dolls backed

Judge Anwyl-Davies, in the second part of his judgment at Southwark Crown Court, London, said yesterday that customs officers were right to seize 500 blow-up sex dolls when they arrived at Heathrow airport from West Germany in October last year.

Last week he ruled that the dolls, which he described as "hideously offensive, were obscene and indecent. They were imported by Conquest Ltd, now trading as Quierzy, which has a nationwide sex shop chain.

£200,000 pay for dentists

Some British dentists are earning between £100,000 and £200,000 by carrying out non-essential work, according to Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield.

"It is only a few, from what I am told, probably between 20 and 50, but it is a disgraceful situation," he said.

Public service workers may pay more to pension plans

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Treasury is to ask 2.5 million teachers, local government and National Health Service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of pay.

It is estimated that this could cost employees £350m.

Official sources said ministers had decided that all public sector pension contributions should be at "a realistic level", and Whitehall now accepted that this is the 7.9 per cent notional contribution made by the 657,000 members of the inflation-proof Civil Service scheme.

The idea has been informally floated to Civil Service union leaders that the notional 7.9 per cent contribution should be turned into an actual contribution - at no cost to either side.

Meanwhile, plans are being laid to increase the employee contributions of the 1,060,000 local government pension scheme members, the 613,000 teachers' scheme members and the 820,000 members of the health service pension scheme.

Manual employees in the health service and local government now contribute 5 per cent of pay, while non-manuals and teachers contribute 6 per cent of pay.

Treasury sources are now talking of contributions of between 7 and 8 per cent for the indexed schemes, and the new rates could be introduced from April 1985.

The 2 per cent decision is seen as the conclusion of the Prime Minister's demand for action on inflation-proof pensions, which resulted in the Scott Report Inquiry into the Value of Pensions, three years ago.

Sir Bernard Scott said then: "If the battle to contain inflation is successful, then the present considerable inequalities between pensions will diminish to more manageable proportions."

Inflation was 15.3 per cent in November 1980, compared with 4.8 per cent last month.

Ministers are also keen to point out that most inflation-proof pensions are by no means represented by some of the high-level examples often cited by the media. In the health service scheme, before last year's increase, 52.1 per cent of pensions were less than £1,000 a year.

In the teachers' scheme, before last year's rise, 26 per cent of pensions were less than £2,000 a year and another 45 per cent were between £2,000 and £4,000.

Miners to continue work ban

Miners' leaders voted yesterday to withdraw from industrial action and to continue their national overtime ban over pay and pit closures into the new year.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that the ban, now into its eighth week, had cost 2.4 million tonnes in lost production.

The situation is likely to worsen next month when any pay negotiations on the 5.3 per cent offer seem further away than ever after the union executive's decision to leave the five-year-old Joint Policy Advisory Committee, the only forum in which the coal board believes an acceptable approach to the Government could be fashioned.

The three mining unions and the board are due to meet next month to draw up an ambitious extension of the industry's tripartite Plan for Coal, and these talks are likely to go ahead. But the NUM says that it will not join any approach to the Secretary of State for Energy, unless it is on a policy of "no pit closures and an end to manpower reductions."

The coal board says that unless normal overtime is permitted over the 10-day Christmas holiday, up to 40 collieries could be at risk from flooding. But Mr Scargill said: "We shall be doing as much as we can to ensure that what has been done already - that is seeking sensible talks."

GPs attack rules for deputies

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

About 80 per cent of the 12,000 family doctors who use deputizing services to cover night and weekend calls would be barred from doing so under new proposals by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

According to these, doctors in partnerships of three or more would be expected to cover each other's night calls without recourse to deputizing services.

Doctors working alone or in partnerships of two would normally be restricted to using the services three nights a week and alternative weekends.

Mr Michael Lowe, secretary to the BMA's advisory committee on deputizing services, said that as a result deputizing services would become uneconomic and close, with general practice in inner-city areas collapsing.

Many older family doctors in inner-city areas would not be able to cope with taking late night calls four nights a week. He said: "They would just get out and I think you would have a job recruiting new doctors to come."

Britain's opticians yesterday launched a campaign to oppose the Government's Bill ending their monopoly to dispense spectacles. The Federation of Optical Corporate Bodies said that, for all except the simplest prescriptions, prices would rise, not fall, as the Government maintains.



Day of desolation: A worker heading home after the announcement that the nearly completed BP rig behind him is likely to be Scott Lithgow's last job (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Ship towns fear catastrophe

By David Black

The now seemingly inevitable closure of British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard will mean a virtual end to shipbuilding in the Lower Clyde.

For 272 years the yard has been the main employer in the Inverclyde area. Its demise would turn Port Glasgow and Greenock into one of Britain's biggest areas of unemployment, and Inverclyde is now bracing itself for this social catastrophe.

Cancellation of the Britoil rig this week had been expected in the yard and in the community for more than five months. The announcement numbered rather than outraged the people of Port Glasgow and Greenock.

Most feel the workforce has been conditioned by the months of speculation over their future. Today there is a feeling of defeat in the towns in spite of moves by politicians and union leaders to avert closure.

The loss of 4,500 jobs by next spring would raise male unemployment from its present 16 per cent to between 35 and 40 per cent.

On the Lower Clyde it would leave only British Shipbuilders' small Ferguson Ailsa yard in Port Glasgow and the John Kincaid engine works which together employ barely 1,500.

A decade of recession has also seen the town's textile and sugar industries collapse, only one other large employer remaining - IBM, with a workforce of 2,500.

Yesterday Greenock's provincial Mr Harry Matholland, predicted the closure would cost a further 4,000 jobs in the area. He said: "The town would probably never recover."

Ten years ago Scott was involved in submarine and other naval construction. Lithgow then built tankers, and together they employed more than 10,000.

An example of the town's plight is the fact that more than 8,000 applications were received last month by IBM.

The Fraser of Allender Institute has given a warning that the closure would cause ripples far beyond the Lower Clyde. It estimates a total of 8,500 redundancies could follow within 12 months, some as far away as the West Midlands.

Inquiry by MPs into fuel prices

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet's decision to ask the electricity industry to raise prices to domestic consumers by 2 per cent in April is to be investigated by the all-party Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The decision of the newly formed committee to hold an inquiry into fuel prices is the latest twist in the dispute involving the Treasury on one side and the Electricity Council and the Department of Energy on the other.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has been pressing for a 3 per cent increase on domestic and industrial users, which Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy and the Electricity Council resisted.

In what has been seen as a compromise, the Cabinet agreed to ask for a 2 per cent increase on domestic tariffs, which it has no power to implement. Although there are signs that this may be acceptable to the council, some electricity industry leaders are still unhappy and may be in the mood to rebel.

The council is due to consider the price increase request at its meeting on January 19 but the select committee inquiry, which is due to begin immediately after Christmas and which will take evidence from the Treasury, the energy department and the council, may encourage it not to take a final decision in the hope that it will gain support from MPs.

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Policeman accused of accosting

A police chief allegedly asked a plain-clothes policeman for sex in Nottingham's red light district, magistrates were told yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert Warner, of the Lincolnshire Constabulary's fraud and drugs squad, alleged to have asked Police Woman Janet Greenwood, of the Nottinghamshire force, "How much is it?"

The police woman, aged 30, told Nottingham magistrates that she replied: "What for?" He then said: "Straight sex."

She produced her warrant card from her jeans pocket and signalled to two other plain-clothes officers in the vicinity.

Chief Inspector Warner, aged 49, was before the court to answer a police summons asking that he be bound over to be of good behaviour under the Justice of the Peace Act of 1361. He denied the complaint.

Mr David Blundell, for the prosecution said that the chief inspector had committed no offence. The 1361 Act was used in cases of people who were misbehaving to the annoyance of others, such as peeping toms.

The Act was one of the oldest on the statute books. But Mr Blundell said it had stood the test of time and many people had been bound over under it.

He added: "The prosecution says he behaved in exactly the same way as dozens of other people who have been bound over. What is good for the goose is good for the gander and the fact that he is a police officer makes no difference."

The hearing continues today.



PM's visitor: Jodie Fitts aged six, of Stockport, who gave some of her bone marrow in an attempt to save the life her baby brother, Aaron, visiting Mrs Thatcher at the Commons yesterday. Her mother, Mrs Maxine Fitts, took her to see Mrs Thatcher at Westminster immediately after Prime Minister's Question Time.

£7.6m rescue for opera and RSC

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The case for more funding for the arts is, of course, just as strong as the case for more funding for the two companies on which Mr. Priestly reported. In future years, attention must be focused on raising the level of arts opportunity and provision outside London to something closer to the London level.

Lord Gorrie denied that the decision unfairly favoured London activities and the opera companies, and said that the writing-off of the debts would give the Arts Council more money to spend on other activities. Opera was an activity of increasing popularity throughout the country, he said.

The minister's announcement, made in a written House of Lords reply, was described as "an insult to regional theatre and the Arts Council" by Mr

Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford.

"The Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company are palpably overfunded in comparison to regional theatre because there is a disgraceful waste at both."

Mr Hedley criticized the salary of nearly £50,000 paid to the RSC's joint director, Mr Trevor Nunn, who is at present on unpaid sabbatical.

"My actors get £95 to £125 a week and I get nearly £200 a week. That's a good salary for me but I'm running an organization with more than £500,000 turnover."

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One in four men admits driving above the drink limit after parties

By Kenneth Gosling

A pre-Christmas survey of almost 1,000 drivers has shown that nearly a quarter of the men questioned would drive home from a party knowing they were over the alcohol limit. And seven in 10 admit having driven after drinking more than two pints of beer.

This would be over the limit for most, but three out of five believe their driving would not be affected according to a Gallup poll carried out for the Legal and General insurance company.

One in five male drivers admitted having driven after drinking at least six pints.

Mr Brian Palmer, a Legal and General director, said the figures told only part of the story. "If this is what people willingly own up to, we can only shudder at what the full picture might be."

"When a jumbo jet crashes the whole world reads about it. Each year the number of people killed or injured in drink-driving accidents in Britain is equivalent to 77 jumbo jet disasters," Mr Palmer said.

One in 10 of all road accidents involves a drunk driver and the Government is spending £860,000 on a Christmas campaign.

Campaigns are ignored by more than 40 per cent of drivers, according to the survey. And even where a partner or a

friend has been chosen to drive home from a party, one in seven is likely to be near or over the limit.

Drivers also ignore the threat to their finances and their jobs if they have their licences suspended for at least a year. One estimate yesterday was that a driver in this position could have to pay between £10,000 and £12,000 to replace his normally car-borne activities, including his job.

Drivers also face a doubling of their premiums and a cut in cover from comprehensive to third party, especially if they have offended more than once.

Some companies protect valued members of staff by taking out cover with the St Christopher Motorists' Security Association, which gives a benefit of £3,000 for a three-star plan on a premium of £64 a year and £8,500 for a five-star policy which costs £175.

"We don't pick up the heavy drinkers," Mr Martin O'Neill, the company's managing director said. "We will not pay out if a motorist is over double the legal maximum. We don't want to be seen as a drunkards' charter."

"We normally acquire people in the professions who know they are at risk if they have one or two drinks. And it's a fallacy that it is just at this point in the year. During the summer is

when people are more relaxed and go out for a pint or two".

A copy of the Gallup poll, conducted nationally between December 7 and 12 among a representative sample, almost equally divided between the sexes, of 962 adults, has been sent to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport.

Women were shown to be slightly more nervous when driving at public house closing times and a little more inclined than men to view the present penalties as not strict enough.

No women admitted having driven after drinking six or more pints of beer. But two per cent had, they said, taken between five and five-and-a-half pints.

● In its annual report the London Council on Alcoholism says it had more than 800 calls last year, 40 per cent from problem drinkers themselves. The total figure was 10 per cent up on last year, which had shown a rise of 20 per cent on the year before.

Among referrals the proportion of women was higher than that of men, although new clients referred by someone else showed a much higher proportion of men.

The age range is expanding, the report says, to include those under 20 and over 60.

PC tells sex bias inquiry of warning

A police officer was given a warning that he would "lose out" if he continued to support a woman colleague in a sexual discrimination claim against the Metropolitan Police, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

Police Constable Trevor Atfield, aged 31, said that he was later transferred from the traffic division at Hampton, west London, to foot patrol in Notting Hill.

Mr Atfield, who is married and lives in Ashford, Surrey, was giving evidence at a hearing in which PC Wendy de Launay claimed sexual discrimination after being banned from making regular police patrols with him. She also alleges that she was victimized and transferred without consultation to another unit.

Mr Atfield claimed in his evidence: "I have been told I would lose out by supporting Miss de Launay."

Mr David Ellis, representing the Metropolitan Police, disputed the allegation but Mr Atfield said: "It is something I have remembered to this day."

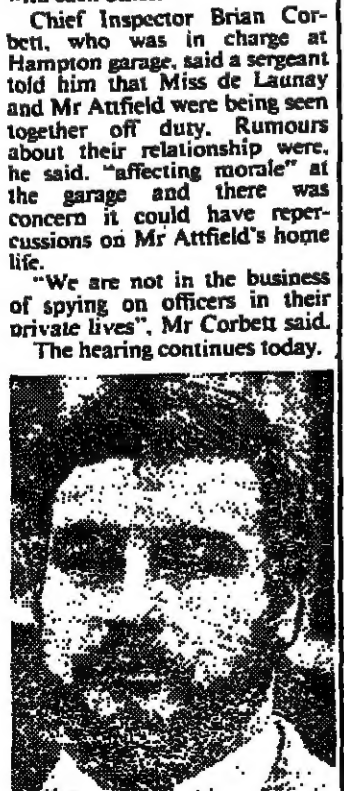
The tribunal, now in its second day, has been told that Miss de Launay and Mr Atfield were traffic patrol partners at the Hampton police garage. They were split up after reports that a relationship had developed between them.

Miss de Launay, who is 25, claims that as a result she could not get the practice and instruction she required from a more senior officer in the handling of police patrol cars.

Both Miss de Launay and Mr Atfield deny suggestions that they were emotionally involved with each other.

Chief Inspector Brian Corbett, who was in charge at Hampton garage, said a sergeant told him that Miss de Launay and Mr Atfield were being sent together off duty. Rumours about their relationship were, he said, "affecting morale" at the garage and there was concern it could have repercussions on Mr Atfield's home life.

"We are not in the business of spying on officers in their private lives," Mr Corbett said. The hearing continues today.



PC Trevor Atfield and his former car patrol partner WPC Wendy de Launay in London yesterday.



Divorced wives of clergy 'ostracized'

By David Cross

Many divorced wives of clergy still feel shabbily treated by the Church of England, in spite of official concern about their plight, according to a report published today.

The report, *Divorced Clergy Wives - One Year On*, has been written by Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and Mr Neil McIlwraith as a sequel to one published a year ago, *Walking on the Other Side*.

The results of the first report, which investigated 24 cases, showed that, with few exceptions, the church's embarrassment over the break-up of clerical marriages led to many wives feeling totally rejected by the authorities. Typical of the reactions was one woman who wrote: "It's a much bigger issue than they [the church] will admit. It embarrasses them and they try to sweep it under the carpet."

After the first report the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said that he was concerned about the problem's scale and anxious for church authorities to respond constructively.

A second survey was commissioned by Mr Field to provide additional data for a working group set up by the House of Bishops. The main point was to discover whether the church's attitude in each diocese reflected the change and the goodwill expressed by senior officials.

But, the report says, many former clergy wives, who believe the church treated them badly in the past, said that there had been no change since the first survey.

Asked whether any contact had been made by the church during the past year to inquire about their circumstances, 20 of the 49 wives who agreed to be interviewed said "Yes". Four-

Time since a divorce was asked by a church official about her welfare	
Less than 1 year	20
Between 1 and 2 years	1
Between 2 and 5 years	6
Over 5 years	1
Uncertain/unclear	7
Never	14
Total	49

teen said that no such inquiry had ever been made.

Indeed, when the church had made contact, it had not always been to inquire about former wives and children. One respondent wrote that she had never been asked "except to check-up if I felt my ex-husband was suitable for a new job".

Explaining the isolation felt by many former wives, one wrote: "Since my divorce I have certainly been dropped by the establishment and people with whom one was constantly in contact have never initiated contact."

The report says that all too many wives reported that unless they went knocking very hard on certain doors, the church was not interested.

The survey also found that some former wives were unaware of the help which church charities like the Corporation of the Sons of Clergy and the Friends of the Clergy Corporation might be able to offer them. Of 23 divorced wives who had been in contact with charities, 19 had had their request completely or almost completely met.

Among the recommendations put forward in the report for easing the plight of former wives is a suggestion that the Church should consider the setting up of a full-time post showing a horse plunging 40 feet into the sea and hitting the water on its back.

The RSPCA worked closely with the Board of British Film Censors to have the scene cut for British showing.

Its chief veterinary officer, Mr David Wilkins, said yesterday: "I was shocked when I saw uncut footage of the stunt. The horse was put in a wooden box on top of a scaffolding with a man and women stunt team. The box was tilted, and all three fell out."

"Warner Brothers say it was examined by a vet, who diagnosed no physical injury."

Hope denies taking fee for charity golf

Bob Hope, the comedian, has denied taking fees to appear at the charity golf tournament which bears his name.

Organizers of the tournament who have gone into liquidation had said Mr Hope was paid £88,000 in fees and £53,000 in expenses for the Bob Hope British Golf Classic.

Yesterday, however, Mr Hope said in a BBC radio interview: "I was never paid any money. The money that I was paid for, of course, went for the production and the whole thing. The money is for the production of the show, and the writers, and the expense - that's all."

"When you're bringing stars over and taking care of them and their fares, it's a hell of a lot of expense there."

Horse stunt fall removed from new Bond film

The RSPCA has persuaded Warner Brothers, the makers of the new James Bond film *Never Say Never Again*, to cut one of the most dramatic scenes, showing a horse plunging 40 feet into the sea and hitting the water on its back.

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Protest over driver's 9-month sentence

A driver who has twice been banned for drinking and driving was jailed for nine months yesterday for causing the death of a boy aged 14 by reckless driving.

Gordon Stratton, aged 24, who had been drinking before he knocked down the boy, Timothy Proctor, was fined and banned in 1979 for driving with excess alcohol. He was fined and banned again last September for a similar offence, committed when he was on bail awaiting trial for the charge concerning Timothy Proctor of Brancote Avenue, Miffham.

After the hearing, at the Central Criminal Court, the boy's father, Mr Bernard Proctor, described the nine-

month sentence as ludicrous and a disgusting insult.

Mr Proctor said he would see his MP and write to the Home Secretary about the case. "This smacks of cut-price justice because a charge of manslaughter was dropped," he said.

In court, Sir James Miskin, the Recorder of London, was told that Stratton, aged 24, was a tank driver who had been changing to red and struck the boy.

Mr Bruce Houlder, for the prosecution, said that Stratton, pursued by a tanker driver who had seen the incident, drove on at high speed, swerving violent-



Pilgrim's progress: Mgr James Horan, a master of politics. (Photograph: Terry Fincher).

Knock airport A priest's dream or folly

By Richard Ford

The view from the 6,000ft runway of Ireland's proposed fourth international airport, perched 650ft above the sea on a boggy plateau, is awe-inspiring. When it is not shrouded in mist rising from the surrounding bog there are spectacular views of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain on whose 2,510ft summit St Patrick allegedly spent the 40 days of Lent in the year 441.

To the south-east is the Marian Shrine at Knock, co Mayo, where in 1879 it is claimed there was an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

But the second miracle of Knock will need more than divine intervention if it is ever to be completed to help pilgrims on their faithful progress to the shrine.

Viewed from Dublin the airport is "Knock nonsense". Dr Garret Fitzgerald's coalition government of Fine Gael and Labour will not spend the further £4m (Irish) needed to provide runway lighting, security, air traffic control, and a terminal building for the grandly-titled Connacht Regional Airport.

The republic's newest airport is destined to remain as "sheer lunacy".

But with political stability, Dr Fitzgerald has decided no more money should be spent. However, with another poll the wily priest may still get his money from public funds to complete the airport.

As one of the company's directors, Dr Joseph Cunnane, the Archbishop of Tuam, said: "It could be a big political embarrassment for Fine Gael as they are the party that stopped this development. This is Fionna Fail territory and Fine Gael has a seat which election."

Mr Horan cleverly played the "deprived West" card, and was delighted at all the publicity surrounding the airport because it was attracting more of the faithful to the Marian Shrine. And the singer Christy Moore has immortalized it with the ballad "The Miracle Airport Knock".

However, the Government's decision against the airport meant disappointment for the cleric who had hoped that by 1985 jumbo jets would be

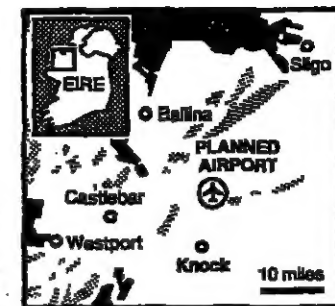
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landing pilgrims on their way to Knock. He dreamed of a traditional Irish airport with peat fires in the terminal lounges. His plan allowed for only nine full-time staff assisted by part-time workers supplementing their meagre farm incomes.

Instead of few trucks to pull the aircraft from the apron to the runway, he had the original concept of letting farmers use their tractors to do the job and hoped that the spin-off would provide industry for the area and make the airport a tourist attraction in its own right because of its beautiful position.

Politicians in the republic will be relieved that Mgr Horan has no further grandiose ideas which might involve public money. He is now to concentrate on something less costly: preparing his own soul before death.

£250,000 damages for mother

From Our Correspondent Manchester

A couple's marriage was ruined after a Mrs Lynn Webb suffered "catastrophic" brain damage during a 10-minute sterilization operation.

Mr Colin Webb, aged 35, a civil servant, agonized for 10 months before divorcing the mother of his four sons. Mrs Webb, a former bank clerk, was awarded damages of £250,000 and costs by the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

Mr Webb said afterwards: "Although I have divorced her, I have not divorced myself from my responsibilities."

Mr Webb, of Lime Road, Haslingden, Lancashire, intends to buy a specially-adapted bungalow near his home where his former wife will live with a full-time nurse to enable her to see more of their children. Geoffrey, aged 12, Peter, aged 10, Ben, aged 9 and Anthony, aged 7.

In making the award, Mr Justice Beldam said that Mrs Webb, now 30, and her husband had been advised that she should be sterilized.

But during the operation in August, 1977, at Fairfield General Hospital, Bury, her heart stopped and she was deprived of oxygen.

The judge said that brain damage was caused by an inexperienced anaesthetist's failure to monitor her blood pressure.

"He had not, in my judgment, been adequately told of the dangers associated with the anaesthetic agent and in particular of the risk of low blood pressure." But he said he believed that Dr Anil Seth, the doctor concerned, became a distinguished member of his profession.

Bury Area Health Authority had contested liability.

NCE upon a time, a young girl called Little Red Riding-Hood set off alone through the Great Wood to visit her grandmother.

Being a kindly girl, she took along with her a basket full of good things including a bottle of Croft Particular, a light, crisp sherry that was the old lady's, special favourite.

After walking for some while, she reached her grandmother's cottage in the middle of the wood, and soon sensed that something was wrong.

"Oh, Grandma!", she cried. "What big eyes you have!" "All the better to see you with", replied the Wolf, who wasn't actually looking at Little Red Riding-Hood, but at the bottle of Croft Particular in her basket.

"What a big nose you have!", she cried. "All the better to smell you with", said the Wolf, though he had just poured himself a glass of the Particular, and was at that moment savouring its delicate bouquet.

"And what a big mouth you have!", cried Red Riding-Hood. "All the better for drinking with", said the Wolf, taking an appreciative slurp and licking his lips. "Mmm... I do enjoy a glass of good sherry before a meal".

SLIGHTLY LIGHTER. SLIGHTLY LESS TRADITIONAL. TO BE ENJOYED SLIGHTLY MORE OFTEN.

Minister declines to intervene in Scott Lithgow

SHIPBUILDING

The record of the British Shipbuilding yard of Scott Lithgow on keeping to budget and to time was abysmal, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons.

Mrs Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) had asked: Is she aware of the impending industrial disaster and human tragedy in the West of Scotland with the possible closure of the Scott Lithgow yard? Would she have negotiations to see whether that contract can be renegotiated, otherwise there will be a tremendous disaster for the West of Scotland, and in the light of the money spent on nuclear weapons it would be a drop in the ocean to save those jobs?

Mrs Thatcher: Competition for both ships and for oil rigs is very great and the only conditions to have employment is by keeping customers. That means building ships and oil rigs to budget and on time and I very much regret the record of that particular yard in that respect is abysmal.

There are two other things in that yard, one is a ship for the MOD and the other is an oil rig and British Shipbuilders will be considering how best to continue to build these in view of the difficulties they face in any negotiations they may be able to have.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said in a statement: In December 1981 Scott Lithgow contracted with British Shipbuilders to produce a semi-submersible drilling rig. The contract value was £88.6m and the contractual delivery date was April 1984. Construction began in February 1982.

By March 1983, British Shipbuilders had provided for losses of £43.8m on the rig. The then chairman, Sir Robert Atkinson, warned that performance and losses at Scott Lithgow were unacceptable.

On October 31 1983, British Shipbuilders were sufficiently concerned about progress on the contract to issue through its agents a notice requiring Scott Lithgow to demonstrate within 30 days that the rig could be completed by February 1985.

Scott Lithgow responded to British Shipbuilders by arguing that despite the undoubted delays on the contract, completion would be possible within the terms of the contract.

However, on 19 December a notice of cancellation was served on behalf of British Shipbuilders on Scott Lithgow had not demon-

strated that the rig could be delivered by February 1985.

BS have responded to the cancellation notice by disputing its validity and I understand that they have now instituted legal proceedings.

While BS and British Shipbuilders are considering the next step in this negotiation, all work on the rig will be stopped. BS are instructing suppliers to suspend work on contracts relating to the rig. Up to 2,000 of the workforce are involved in construction of the rig.

The remainder of the workforce - approximately 2,250 men - are employed on two other contracts: one for BP and one for the Ministry of Defence. It is BS's intention that these contracts will continue.

Unemployment in this area is already high and a further increase in scale implied by the cancellation of this order would be a matter of deep concern to the Government. The Secretary of State for Scotland has this morning met the Scottish TUC and told them that he would of course seek to do all he can to alleviate the very real distress that would be caused in the local community.

However, the offshore industry is highly competitive and customers insist upon contractors - including management and workforce - delivering on quality, price and time. Regrettably Scott Lithgow so far appears to have been unable to satisfy British Shipbuilders that it can fulfil its obligations on this contract.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said this was not the time for the Secretary of State for Scotland to be telling the Scottish TUC that he would alleviate the distress caused by the closure.

It is time (he said) for the minister and the Government to call in the parties and insist on a solution. Why has he not done so already? He has known for months that these losses have been building up.

If this shipyard were to close, 4,250 jobs would be directly at risk, 2,250. Another 4,000 were directly engaged in ancillary work and contracting, so they were talking about a total of something over 8,000.

Scott Lithgow was the lead yard designated by British Shipbuilders for offshore construction and was building probably the most advanced semi-submersible rig that we had ever marketed, to operate in deep Atlantic waters, a far more sophisticated rig than had so far had to operate even in the deep waters of the North Sea.

It is absurd (he continued) that the future of this yard and of this



Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry.

industry should be left to litigation by one wholly-owned, public corporation against another 48 per cent-owned public corporation while the chairman of BS himself has departed for a three week holiday abroad.

The minister should accept his own responsibility. He cannot simply sit on his hands while a commercial dispute between BS and British Shipbuilders is allowed to collapse. We will not allow him to.

Mr Lamont said the Government had kept in close touch with the situation in the contract. This was a serious matter but it was a commercial dispute between BS and British Shipbuilders. Both sides had taken decisions which they judged to be in their best commercial interest.

If the Government were to intervene (he continued) either by urging British Shipbuilders to withdraw its notice or by negotiating the contract, which they did not wish to do, the commercial and financial position of one party or the other would be severely prejudiced and the ground would be cut from under the feet of both managements. Government intervention would be only counterproductive. (Labour interruptions.)

The Government had to consider not just the yard but the taxpayers who had funded huge losses by Scott Lithgow, almost £44m on this contract. Some £66m out of the losses of £117m that BS announced last year came from Scott Lithgow.

Did Mr Shore suggest that the Government put more money into Scott Lithgow?

Mr Shore asked Mr Lamont if he was saying that this was entirely a commercial matter for the two parties and that either now or at the end of the legal procedure he did not accept that he had a separate role to look after the national interest in so far as it was involved in the future of this industry?

Mr Lamont replied that of course there was a national interest but this interest was not to pour good money after bad. (Labour interruptions.) Taxpayers must be considered. BS did not wish to be forced to renegotiate the contract. If this was what Mr Shore suggested, he was saying that the Government should encourage them to take risks, to incur costs they did not wish to undertake. That could damage not only BS but other contractors they were working on.

Mrs Anna McCauley (Renfrew, West and Inverclyde, C) Will the



Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party.

Minister carry out an urgent review of the procedures adopted at Scott Lithgow with a view to salvaging some of the undoubtedly expertise that exists at this yard?

Surely the Government cannot pull the plug out of an industry that has served the west of Scotland for more than 200 years without such a review.

Mr Lamont: This is not about the cancellation of a contract. It is not about the procedures adopted at Scott Lithgow. It is the inefficiency, poor performance and massive losses. They have gone on for many years and the men at Scott Lithgow have been warned about that.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party: He is pushing the laissez faire philosophy of this Government to preposterous lengths.

Mr Lamont: I do not see how it could be remotely described as laissez faire to have funded losses of £140 by this yard in addition to giving production subsidies of £17m to Scott Lithgow through the intervention fund.

Mr Bruce Millar (Glasgow, Govan, Lab): This contract can be saved. These jobs can be saved. It will be cheaper for the public purse at the end of the day if the contract is renegotiated. If the Government does not intervene in this they will not be forgiven in Scotland.

Mr Lamont: The way it would be cheaper for the public purse if the contract were renegotiated, I do not see how he can be so certain as to what further losses would be incurred if the contract is proceeded with.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): However much Mr Lamont may talk about commercial considerations and competitiveness, this stand off approach which he has taken today to the death of an industry and two towns is something which would not be allowed to happen in any other industry.

Mr Lamont: It will not be the death of an industry. There are other yards which are involved in this industry. I cannot believe in many countries the government would have gone on funding losses year after year at this Government has done with Scott Lithgow.

Noraid money going to those who pursue violence

TERRORISM

Mrs Thatcher coupled a condemnation of financial support for Noraid, the fund-raising organisation for the IRA in the United States, with agreement that most American and Irish people condemned violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions in the Commons asking her to endorse the line taken by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, about Noraid, and another calling on her to dampen hysteria about Irish-American support for violence in Northern Ireland.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C) said: The tragic death on Saturday of a United States citizen and the injuring of others might bring home that money given to Noraid does not go to help widows and orphans, but to create them.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. We condemn, as strongly as we can, the money going to Noraid. It is given to those who reject democracy and pursue the ends of violence, death and destruction of innocent people. It is possible that it resulted on this

occasion in the death of one American citizen and the injury of others.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Endorsing the views of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland given on American television yesterday, the House will want to commend the helpful and forthright response of Dr Garret Fitzgerald and the positive statements by the American Ambassador on Saturday's atrocity.

What consideration has been given to increasing formal joint efforts between governments to block off the flow of munitions and money to terrorists, wherever such resources come from?

Mrs Thatcher: I am grateful to Mr Kinnock. Dr Fitzgerald was sympathetic and sent a very sympathetic message. I was able to congratulate him on the tremendous efforts in the Republic to secure the release of Mr Tidy. That resulted in the death of two of their security guards.

Cooperation is close between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic in trying to block off munitions, or if they get over, in trying to find them. The destruction and damage caused in the Republic by the activities of the IRA is very damaging to the Republic. We therefore both cooperate in

these matters to the maximum extent. I am also grateful for what the American Ambassador said when he came to see me last evening.

Mr John Hume (Foye, SDLP): Will the Prime Minister dampen the hysteria in this country about Irish-American support for violence in Northern Ireland? The vast majority of Irish-Americans - and there are 44 million of them - do not support violence, and that opposition is forcibly, strongly and constructively expressed by their leaders like Speaker O'Neill, Senator Kennedy and Mr Moynihan.

Mrs Thatcher: The overwhelming majority of the American people and the Irish and those in prominent positions condemn violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

Violence is a negation of democracy. We pursue democracy.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.
Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill, Reparation of Prisoners Bill, and Criminal Justice and Welfare Bill, second reading.

Tough targets set for some Welsh councils: low rate rises forecast

WALES

Expenditure targets set for Welsh local authorities for 1984-85 are tough for some but reasonable for all, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said.

His statement to the Commons on the rate support grant for the forthcoming financial year. Every authority, he said, had a cash increase in its current expenditure.

Mr Edwards said: I have today announced to the Welsh Consultative Council on Local Government Finance the details of the 1984-85 rate support grant settlement.

The main features of the 1984-85 settlement confirm the intentions I announced in November. They must be seen in the context of the Government's continuing commitment of secure reductions in public expenditure. The total of relevant expenditure provision accepted for grants is £1,460m. This comprises £1,253m for current expenditure and £207m for non-current items. Aggregate exchequer grant will be £996m, consisting of £138.8m for specific grants, £31m for transport supplementary grant, £1.9m for national parks supplementary grant and £824.3m for the rate support grant. Domestic rate relief is unchanged at 194p in the pound which costs £25.3m, leaving £779m for distribution as block grant.

The settlement is a fair one. Current expenditure provision, after allowing for the 1½ per cent reduction in authorities' national insurance surcharge from April and the way in which housing benefit administration costs are now counted for rate support grant purposes, is £57m or 4.8 per cent more than the provision underlying the 1983-84 settlement. The aggregate exchequer grant at £996m is £21m or 2.2 per cent more than the aggregate exchequer grant provision in the main rate support grant settlement for the current year. Even more important, for rate support purposes it is £36m or 3.8 per cent higher than the amount authorities have included in their budgets for the present year.

As in the present year and preceding one I have set individual authority expenditure targets. Experience has shown that these are helpful to authorities in providing a degree of certainty of grant entitlement for spending, and grant and clearly exert a significant influence on expenditure decisions.

In the light of the views expressed by the two Welsh local authority associations I have retained the same method for determining next year's expenditure targets as that used in the current year. It enables me to withhold grant to an equitable way by ensuring that the

amount of grant withheld from an authority directly related to its own overspending and not to the expenditure decisions of other authorities.

The targets I have set are very tough for some authorities - but are reasonable for all. Every authority target gives a cash increase in its current expenditure: the minimum increase is 1½ per cent and the maximum 6 per cent, after making allowance for all other increases in the national insurance surcharge next year and a modest amount of budget drift.

The grant withholding penalty for spending in excess of targets has been strengthened. As in the present year the amount of grant withheld for excess expenditure up to 1 per cent above target is 40 per cent of that excess but above that level the allowance for all excess increases progressively with the amount of excess. For authorities spending 5 per cent or more above target, this compares with a maximum rate of

expenditure. Some progress has been made on this front but there is still some way to go. Since 1978/79 the Local Government current expenditure in Wales has risen by about 2 per cent more than the increase in costs for the economy as a whole. We must reverse this trend.

Clearly if authorities are to meet their targets for next year this growth on manpower must be reversed. I appreciate of course that authorities have difficult choices of priority to make but that applies in all areas of public expenditure, including my own programmes.

What happens to rates next year will of course depend on the decisions of authorities themselves. Here I will simply make two points. Authorities can on average increase their net revenue expenditure each year by nearly 4 per cent and still spend in line with targets. And if authorities spend at this level and apply only half of the balances they have applied in the present year, rate increases would average only 1 per cent. Indeed rates could fall if authorities applied balances to the same extent as in the current year.

There are figures which are very far from those which have been bandied about; for example the average rate increase of 17 per cent reported in the press. I regard this figure as wildly exaggerated and simply do not believe it.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Alyn and Deeside, D): It is a flagrant act of injustice to impose even more impossible targets and tougher penalties on authorities who cannot cut priority services and have genuinely tried to restrain expenditure. How can we ever again see local elections as having real meaning?

The cumulative effect of the statutory increases in the current year of 75 per cent at 6 per cent spending above target.

I am retaining the grant protection arrangements already adopted whereby any authority spending at or below target will be exempted from both block holdback and close-ended. Similarly the limitation of grant holdback for low rateable resource authorities set in the present year will be retained for 1984-85.

Block grant will be distributed in accordance with the grant related expenditure formulae agreed by the Welsh local authority associations. I have decided to retain the existing block grant mechanisms which determine the distribution of block grant before holdback and the same safety net for limiting grant losses associated with changes in GRE - a maximum 40 per cent at the county level and 10 per cent at the district level.

There is a continuing need for restraint in local government

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There is a continuing need for restraint in local government

Child sex case judge criticized by MPs

PM's QUESTIONS

Legislation is to be introduced to allow the Court of Appeal to consider sentences alleged to be too lenient, not with a view to changing sentences, but so that there might be a guide on future sentences. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when questioned in the Commons about the case in which a man was sentenced to two years imprisonment on Monday for an offence against a seven-year-old girl.

Mrs Thatcher said that she could not emphasize too strongly the seriousness with which the Government regarded all sexual offences against children.

The matter was raised by Mrs Edwina Currie (South Derbyshire, C) who asked: Will Mrs Thatcher study the remarks of Judge Brian Gibbins in the High Court on Friday and yesterday in which he expressed sympathy with a man who had been sentenced to two years imprisonment on Monday for an offence against a seven-year-old girl and described it as an accident?

Will she agree with me, as the mother of a seven-year-old girl, that those remarks were a disgrace? Mrs Thatcher: I have great sympathy with Mrs Currie. The Government regards with very great seriousness indeed all sexual offences against children. I cannot emphasize that too strongly.

The Lord Chancellor has called for a transcript, so that he may first find the facts, which I believe is the proper course.

Mr Peter Lilley (St Albans, C): 490 people were convicted last year of sexual assaults on children, there is growing public concern at the lenient sentences on such offenders, such as the one passed yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher: Within the statutory limits on sentencing laid down, the law allows for very severe sentences. The precise sentences are a matter for the judge, but the Government intends to introduce legislation to submit sentences which are alleged to be too lenient to the Court of Appeal. Although the court could not overrule that sentence, what it said might be a guide on future sentences.

£1 makes a hole in the pocket

The £1 coin was now being called "a nagger" because it was large, rough edged, and pretended to be a sovereign. Lord Wallace of Cosham, for the Opposition, said at question time in the House of Lords when asked to question the Government not to circulate the £1 note from the new series.

Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, who replied, told him: I was not aware of that. I could tell Lord Wallace something about the same lines about the 50p piece when his party was in power. The Government was not to circulate the £1 note from the new series.

The Government's intention to withdraw the £1 note from circulation in due course once the public had had time to become accustomed to the £1 coin. The need for a coin resulted from the way the £1 note deteriorated now that less frequent replacement was feasible.

When Lord Melsen (C) asked if the Government had considered substituting a plastic note for the paper one, Lord Glenarthur replied that the idea of Mr Melsen had recently introduced a plastic £1 note. Evaluation by the Bank of England suggested plastic notes were not a suitable alternative to paper notes. They were not so secure from forgery and for the reason the Government did not propose to go ahead with anything on those lines.

Lady Birk, for the Opposition, said the weight of the coins was such that she had already gone through one purse and the coins had fallen through her husband's pocket.

In view of inflation (she added) it is expensive to replace the trousers and the wallet. (Laughter)

Lord Glenarthur: I do not have as many £1 coins in my pocket as Lady Birk. I suggest the invites her husband to change the £1 coins for a £5 note.

He said that no announcement had been made about the point at which the £1 would be withdrawn from circulation. The £1 note issued only 11 months and the coin 40 years.

Research into exam results

EDUCATION

The Cox and Marks report on standards in English Schools, which claimed that secondary modern and grammar schools together had better examination results than comprehensives, was defended by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, during question time in the Commons.

He had been asked by Mr Harry Greenway (Edling North, C) what studies were in hand to examine the relationship between academic results and the form of organization of secondary schools.

Sir Keith Joseph: The department is not currently sponsoring any research studies which are concerned solely with this topic, but is assessing the possibilities for research in this area as a preliminary to considering whether public funds should be committed to it.

Mr Greenway: would he confirm that his statistics are satisfactory contrary to earlier press reports that recent research into examination results in grammar and secondary modern schools as against comprehensives was valid, that a proper sample was taken and is professionally sound?

Will he in future consider the National Council for Education Standards equally with the National Children's Bureau and other such bodies for grant purposes since both are equally valid research. Would he agree this requires research by Labour MPs on educational studies?

Sir Keith Joseph: It is clear from the letter I published from my statisticians that they never used the word "flawed" this report was valid and that the difference between them and the report was one which

is often argued between professional researchers.

I regret that the officials who advised me were not entirely objective and understand and respect Government policy and that it is for local education authorities to propose change in the organization of schools. I shall consider all proposals for research on their merits.

Mr Giles Radice, chief opposition spokesman on education (Durham North, Lab): I thank him for his handsome apology, in responding to my letter to the House of Commons, at the report stage of the Education Support Grant Bill.

But he is aware that the issue still remains whether he is prepared to accept professional advice of his department that the Cox and Marks study seriously underestimated the impact of social and economic factors on examination results?

Will he reassure the House he intends to live up to the standards of his high office and his own previous standards as a Fellow of All Souls and refuse to give the backing of public money to Cox and Marks who have broken the tradition of research by fixing the evidence (Conservative protest) to produce results which confirm their own particular prejudices?

Sir Keith Joseph: No, I totally deny the proposition about the attitude of Cox and Marks. The areas of disagreement is one that often occur between statisticians. I shall consider all proposals on their merits.

Procedure for closing schools unchanged

Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, asked if his department would publish guidelines for use when closure of village schools were proposed, said that Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State,

saw no need to change present procedures.

Proposals to close village schools, like proposals to close schools, are decided (he said) on their merits, having regard to all the relevant factors involved.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C): There is deep public concern about village school closures. Publication of guidelines on the size of schools, distances from alternative schools, travel conditions and so on would help to reassure people.

Mr Dunn: We have made this known from time to time. There may be some who would like to see proposals for keeping very small schools open. Where this is so, the minister decides accordingly; where there are no such reasons it is not sensible to devote scarce educational resources to keeping excess places in use. This diverts resources from better use, perhaps in a school in another village.

Educational needs of unemployed

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, said during question time that he would shortly be discussing with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security (Mr Nicholas Edwards) recommendations made in a recent report published by Youth aid unemployment benefit.

He said the report gave a useful indication of the use of the 21-hour rule in further education colleges and schools and proposed ways of improving access to education for the unemployed.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C): The 21-hour provision will be extremely useful for young people coming off the youth training scheme. What is the department doing to persuade those colleges which do not offer 21-hour study to do so?

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree that it will be a useful option for those concerned while they are seeking

jobs, particularly since the qualification of three months unemployment has been removed by the Department of Health and Social Security. On his second point, I am considering ways in which we are open to us.

Mr Barry Sheerman, an Opposition spokesman on education (Huddersfield): This Christmas, 25 per cent of teenagers are on the dole. Many of them would very much like to pursue courses of education rather than merely signing on the dole.

The whole interface between the availability of work, the eligibility of benefit and the ability to qualify for the youth training scheme is a mess that is not understood by DHSS managers and local education authorities. The result is that many young men and women who would like to pursue education are forced not to be able to.

Sir Keith Joseph: He limits his remarks to teenagers. There are very few 16-year-olds as a proportion of that vintage on the dole.

The 21-hour rule is an extremely useful option for those who wish to do some part-time study while waiting for employment.

Government against a new council

The Government has decided not to set up a national development council to promote future development in adult continuing education.

Mr Peter Brooke, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the Commons that discussions were taking place with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education about the role the institute might play in these circumstances.

Mr Jack Dorman (Easington, Lab): In view of the pathetic record of this Government in adult continuing education, the decision not to set up a development council is a clear indication they do not have any interest whatever in this.

Who'll be home for Christmas?

What better way of bringing Christmas spirit into your home than a bottle of Johnnie Walker Red Label?

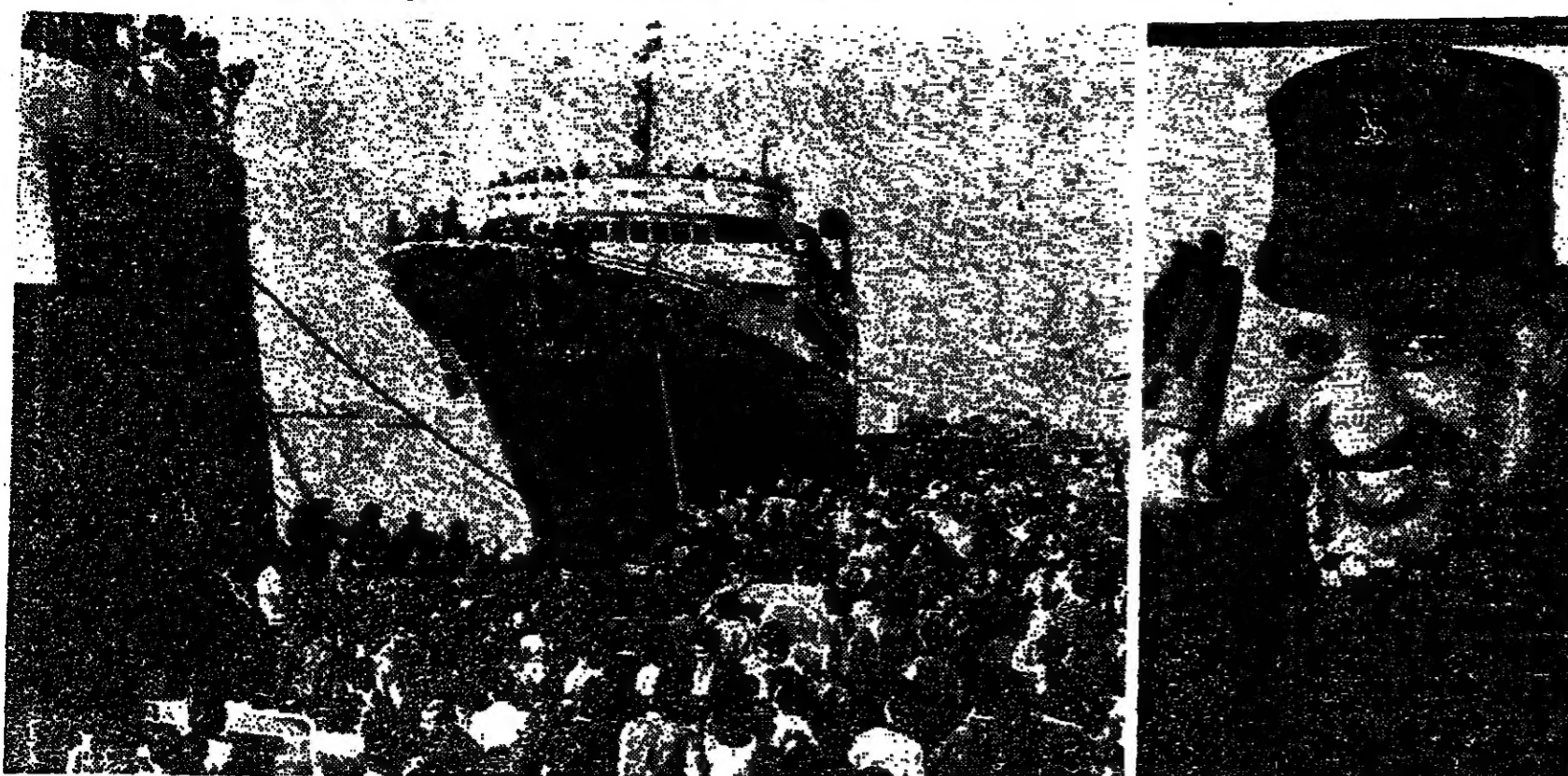
Enjoy with family and friends the taste of the world's most distinctive Scotch Whisky.

Have a very Merry Christmas.

Johnnie Walker Red Label.

Recognised everywhere

A homeless people in retreat, a leader with nowhere to lead them



Odyssey to nowhere: Yassir Arafat, defiantly cheerful as he and his ragged army quit the scene of their last defeat.

Arafat sails away with mythical victory

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

They were the same victory signs, the same bursts of gunfire, in many cases the same faces. We had seen them all before and they were again yesterday in another expensive production of the same old epic.

After humiliating defeat, Mr Yassir Arafat tore his ragged hair in mythical victory, persuading his 4,000 men that they are on their way to Palestine and sailing off into the sunset on a dreamboat appropriately named *Odysseus*. They left behind them, as before, another Lebanese city that they had helped to destroy.

They took everything with them, their Mercedes limousines, their broken lorries, torn blankets, old tyres and rubbish tins, like children unwilling to part with old toys they left anything for the Syrians and the Palestinians who had

betrayed them. It was both pathetic and demeaning, an image of a homeless people in retreat and a leader with nowhere to lead them. The Lebanese policeman on the quayside put it rather succinctly. "Finito" was what he said.

The ritual of defeat has become almost as familiar as the story of Palestine which always seems to involve people arriving from exile or going into exile on boats. One noticed how old they had become, Arafat's loyal 4,000, how some of them walked the docks with the aid of sticks, not because they had been wounded but because they had been fighting for too long and how some of the younger men quickly forgot the damnable reasons for their job.

There was a youth on the quayside who raised his left

hand in the victory salute, balanced an anti-tank rocket launcher on his shoulder, opened his mouth to protect his ears from the air pressure and lashed off a missile across the heads of the thousands around him. Only afterwards, when he snuffed his breath, did he realise that he had been drinking. Three Israeli jets circled tantalisingly overhead but Mr Arafat's warriors threw hand-grenades into the harbour for amusement, the undersea explosions banging like a hammer against the hulls of the ships that were rescuing them.

So it had come to this. Why else would the local Lebanese Sunni militiamen, unshaven, bandanas round their heads, newly acquired PLO guns in their hands, have lunged opposite the ships and sneered at the evacuees? "They were

worthless and now we are free to do what we want," one of them said. For Tripoli's agony is far from ended.

Why else, too, would one find Ian Davidson, a 26-year-old South Shields carpenter, standing in a kuffiah headscarf with a Kalashnikov rifle in his arms, waiting to be taken to the ship after only five weeks fighting for Mr Arafat. He was not looking forward to Christmas in Yemen and hoped the PLO would let him have his passport back.

But there were other images yesterday. There were the young men tired from combat, embracing wives but still unable to stop looking back towards the mountains above Badawi, where they lost their last battle.

There were the postage-

stamp UN flags on the masts of the evacuation ships which the PLO men preferred not to look at. There was a girl, a very pretty girl with dark hair, who stood at one end of the quay dressed in a black suit and scarf and who just watched silently and unmoving for an hour.

And there at the finale, as always, was Mr Arafat, travelling in the *Odysseus* in a Range Rover so thick with bodyguards that you could not see him through the glass. Just once on the quay he glimpsed him, kissing a young man on both cheeks, grinning and giving a double-handed victory sign before his bodyguards ordered him from the sight of potential assassins who might just have been among the hundreds of cheering Palestinians below.

Bethlehem attacks feared

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Less than a week before the traditional Christmas Eve celebrations in Israeli-occupied Bethlehem, the new campaign of grenade attacks against religious targets in and around Jerusalem was intensified yesterday. Two booby-trap devices exploded, injuring two people, one seriously.

As in eight similar attacks against non-Jewish targets earlier this month, the Israeli Army issued grenades used were assumed to have been planted by a new extreme right-wing Jewish terrorist group.

The blasts were claimed in a call to the Israeli Army radio by Terror Against Terror, the group which also claimed responsibility for the previous attacks, including four close to Mount Zion.

The wave of explosions has increased fears about security in Bethlehem, which has long been regarded as a prestige target for both Jewish and Arab terrorists. It is understood that especially tight security precautions will be in operation on December 24 to prevent any group seeking the publicity from an attack which would be ensured worldwide television coverage.

The first of yesterday's blasts occurred before dawn near a mosque on the outskirts and badly injured the muezzin, who

Iraqi leader given Reagan message

Baghdad (Reuters) - Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the US Middle East envoy left Baghdad yesterday after delivering a written message from President Reagan to President Saddam Hussein, the official Iraqi news agency said. Some observers said that this might signal progress towards a resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, severed by Iraq during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, left the United Arab Emirates for Britain yesterday at the end of a nine-nation Middle East tour.

had been on his way to call the faithful to dawn prayers. Three hours later and only 300 yards away, the second attack took place at the Greek

Orthodox monastery in Bethany, a hillside village where tradition has it that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. A nun going to tend two goats was wounded in the foot when a grenade fitted with a hair-trigger device exploded.

Israeli police believe that the attacks - which were designed to kill - are being carried out by a small group with Israeli Army training. Their campaign is thought to have been mounted in revenge for the Jerusalem bus bomb planted by the Palestine Liberation Organization earlier this month, an attack that has claimed six lives so far.

The incidents have caused consternation in both Christian and Muslim religious circles where the lack of security for religious institutions is openly acknowledged. They coincide with a drive among some Jewish extremists against the alleged missionary activities of Christian groups in Israel and the occupied territories.

The Hebrew acronym of the group which claimed responsibility is TNA, a similar name to that used by a Jewish terrorist organization active some 10 years ago.

Military errors blamed for Marines massacre

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A congressional report has accused the entire US military chain of command in Beirut of "very serious errors in judgment" that led to the death of 241 American Marines in a bomb attack on October 23.

The report was highly critical of officers on the ground. General Paul Kelly, the Marine Corps commandant, was accused of providing testimony that was "inaccurate, erroneous and misleading" when he appeared before the House armed services committee in early November.

The report, produced by the House armed services investigation sub-committee, attributed part of the blame for the disaster to the administration. It complained that the Marines had been hampered in several ways by "political-diplomatic" considerations and said that President Reagan should reexamine the Marine mission in Lebanon or have congress do it for him.

The implicit message behind the report is that the investigators are highly sceptical of the role of American Marines in

Beirut. Shortly before the massacre, congress authorized the President to keep troops there for another 18 months. However, vigorous attempts are likely to be made to reverse the decision.

An official Pentagon investigation into the disaster is due to be published soon. The explosion, which happened when a lorry laden with bombs was rammed through the Marine defences and up to the headquarters building, has resulted in a review of safety measures.

The report said: "The truck bomb... rolled through a concrete wire fence that was primarily a personnel barrier. It went between guard posts where the guards had their guns unloaded... it went through a gate that was generally left open... iron pipes in front of the building were not large enough to stop the vehicle..."

It called to account "the higher policy-making authority that adopted and continued a policy that placed military units in a deployment where protection was inevitably inadequate".

Pretoria-Maputo deal may leave ANC isolated

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A South African delegation, led by Mr P. W. Botha, the Foreign Minister, yesterday held talks with senior Mozambique ministers in Swaziland.

The Mozambique news agency quoted President Machel as saying that the talks were essential in finding a *modus vivendi* in southern Africa.

The South African delegation included General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, and Mr Louis le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order. The Mozambique side was led by Mr Jacinto Veloso, the Minister of Economic Affairs.

"The main objective is that no country attacks another. Neighbours are not chosen. They may bother us, or we may bother them," President Machel said. He was speaking at a conference in Guinea-Bissau of former Portuguese colonies in Africa.

Mozambique, which subscribes to a broadly Marxist ideology, has been the target of two armed attacks this year by South Africa, which claimed they were aimed at buildings occupied by African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas.

A possible outcome could be an agreement, with Mozambi-

que cracking down on ANC use of the country as a sanctuary in return for a cessation of South African military aid to insurgents opposed to the Maputo Government. South Africans deny publicly that they give such aid, but this is discounted by observers.

Lesotho has promised to supply Pretoria with more information about a plot allegedly being hatched in South Africa for the overthrow of the tiny kingdom's government by a group of mercenaries operating under instructions from an unnamed foreign power.

Lesotho revealed the coup plan on Monday night. Diplomats in Maseru, the capital, were called for a briefing by Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, the Foreign Minister, and a message was also sent to the U.N.

Pretoria denies any knowledge of the plot, but says it would be ready to cooperate in an investigation "as a matter of urgency" once it had been given "comprehensive details".

● PRETORIA: Three white South African soldiers were killed during clashes with the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) the army chief of staff said here (AFP reports).

Swiss angry at action of Italian agents

Rome (Reuters) - Switzerland has protested officially to Italy against what it terms repeated violation of Swiss sovereignty by Italian secret agents, Italian foreign ministry officials said yesterday.

They confirmed local press reports which said a diplomatic Note, presented to the Italian ambassador in Bern on Monday, warned Italy that if the violations continued relations between the two countries could suffer.

Switzerland also demanded an explanation for a statement by an Italian official last August about Italian secret service operations outside a jail, where Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the illegal P-2 Masonic Lodge, was held before his escape.

Peruvian police general shot

General Carlos Herrera, a senior officer of the Peruvian plainclothes police, was shot dead by four men in Lima yesterday (our Foreign Staff writes).

The attack on General Herrera, commander of the police training school, came hours after the police had claimed to have captured Antonio Diaz Martinez, one of the leading figures in the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla movement.

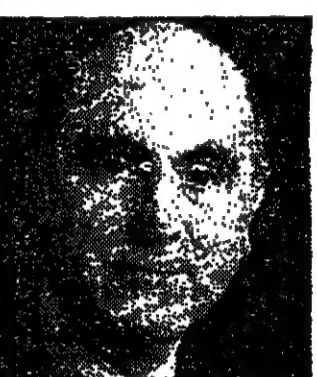
Abortion doctor must pay up

Bonn - A doctor who carries out an unsuccessful abortion must pay compensation to the mother and maintenance for the child if negligence can be proved, a West German appeal court ruled yesterday.

The court, at Zweibrücken in Saarland, ordered an unidentified woman gynaecologist to pay £765 compensation to a 42-year-old woman, now a mother of five.

Murdoch buys

Chicago (Reuters) - Field Enterprises said yesterday it has signed a final agreement to sell the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the country's seventh largest-selling daily newspaper, to Mr Rupert Murdoch, for \$90m (£64m) cash.



The new West German Ambassador to Britain, Baron Ruediger von Weizsäcker, aged 60, who takes up his post today. He served as Ambassador in Rome after representing Germany at the United Nations for seven years.

Ciskei ruling

Bishop, Ciskei (AFP) - The Supreme Court here has ruled that the Ciskei authorities should immediately bring Father Snaagallo Mkhatswa, Secretary-General of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' conference before the court. He was arrested seven weeks ago.

Church demand

East Berlin (Reuters) - The East German Protestant Church has demanded the release of two women pacifists arrested last week after meeting a member of the British Campaign for Nuclear Dismantment.

Drought appeal

Geneva (AP) - The International Red Cross, citing worsening drought conditions in Mauritania, has launched an international appeal for 17 million Swiss francs (£5.4m) in cash and kind.

Rwanda 'choice'

Kigali (AFP) - Major-General Juvenal Habyarimana was reelected President of Rwanda with more than 99 per cent of the vote in Monday's presidential election.

Sentences to stay

Seoul (AFP) - A Seoul Appeal Court has upheld the prison sentences imposed in August on six Chinese hijackers who forced a Chinese domestic airliner to South Korea in May.

Eating again

Brussels (Reuters) - University students on hunger strike in Brussels since November 22 in protest against a Bill to restrict immigration have ended their fast.

Pandora bounty

Brisbane (AFP) - A cannon and other artefacts have been recovered by divers from HMS Pandora, a British frigate wrecked in 1791 while carrying mutineers from HMS Bounty back to England for trial.

EEC faces cheese-paring if money is to last

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission is being forced into a drastic cheese-paring exercise in an attempt to find enough money to last the EEC throughout next year. This follows the adoption yesterday of the 1984 budget by Mr Piet Dankert, President of the Parliament, despite a last-minute plea by member-states.

The £15.300m budget is clearly not going to meet all the Community's obligations in 1984. And no matter what steps the Commission takes it is likely that some bills will have to remain unpaid after September.

In turning down the Council of Ministers' request to think again, Mr Dankert has served notice that the Parliament is determined to stake its claim to a larger share in community decision-making. With direct election coming in June, it could hardly do less.

It also means that the only quick and certain way in which Britain's frozen £457m rebate - which is included in the 1984 budget - can be released is for there to be rapid agreement on Community reforms.

The alternative would be for either the Council or Britain to start court proceedings against the Parliament for having adopted a budget which is legally suspect.

Mr Dankert made it quite clear yesterday that he utterly rejects the Council suggestion that it was illegal to transfer the British rebate money to a category which could be frozen.

The frozen rebate, however, is nothing but an irritating side issue to the Commission, which now has to find extra money somewhere if it is to manage the 1984 budget.

Retirement at 59 for West Germans

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

West German workers will be able to retire at 59 under a Government plan announced yesterday, to find jobs for younger people and reduce unemployment of more than two million.

Under the voluntary scheme, workers who opt for early retirement will be paid a minimum of 65 per cent of their former gross pay. But retirement agreements will be negotiated between employers and employees, and there will be no upper limit on pensions.

Firms which replace an early retiree with an unemployed younger adult or take on a school leaver as an apprentice, will receive a state subsidy of 40 per cent of their contributions to their former employee's pension and health insurance.

Herr Norbert Blum, the Bonn Labour spokesman, yesterday described the plan as a "job creation pact between the state, workers and trade unions."

He added: "It is a model of cooperation in difficult times. It is also a contribution to solidarity between the generations, offering relief to older workers and a chance of employment for the younger."

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet on Monday, is expected to become law next April and will apply for five years. All workers aged between 59 and 65 will be eligible for early retirement without question, except for those in firms with 20 or fewer employees who will require their employer's agreement.

The scheme will not apply to civil servants, Herr Blum said, because they already had their own part time and "flexitime" working arrangements.

Lambsdorff works on in Cabinet

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, who has been charged with corruption, is to remain in office until further notice, the chief government spokesman said yesterday.

Herr Peter Boenisch told a press conference that this has been agreed in a talk between Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Herr Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister and Free Democrat leader, and Count Lambsdorff.

Count Lambsdorff in a statement confirmed that "my work as Federal Minister for Economics goes on," his decision was based on his "good conscience" he added. "I will not let unfounded charges push me out of office."

Arms found in Solidarity priest's flat

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A secret cache of explosives, ammunition, an illegal printing press and thousands of leaflets calling for demonstrations were discovered in the apartment of a radical pro-Solidarity priest in Warsaw, the Polish authorities disclosed yesterday.

The flat was being rented by Father Jerzy Popieluszko, whose outspoken sermons attacking martial law and official abuses of human rights have earned him a following of thousands of Solidarity supporters and the suspicion of the security police.

The find is a serious upset to the Catholic Church leadership, which has until now been able to sustain an uneasy compromise between statesmanlike appeals for calm and reconciliation with the militancy of

parish priests, many of whom say that the church must more actively defend the suffering and persecuted.

Senior Church representatives managed to secure the release of Father Popieluszko last week, but investigations are continuing on the basis of at least two serious charges - possession and storage of explosives and ammunition and preparing action to disturb public order.

Father Popieluszko had been held for questioning about other charges, concerning abuse of his religious rights by injecting politics into his services, and police say they then found the keys to his apartment.

Normally Father Popieluszko lives in a small cramped room in the rectory of his church of St

Stanislaw Kostka, in the Zoliborz suburb of Warsaw. His congregation includes many workers from the Huta Warszawa steelworks who had been acting as his bodyguards.

If the authorities can produce concrete evidence that the Church has been giving material support to the underground opposition, and is even preparing for violence, they will have an important propaganda breakthrough.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, confirmed yesterday that there had been trouble in the Barczewo prison, which houses Solidarity prisoners. Informed sources say that Solidarity is trying to win political prisoner status.

Leading article, page 13

Threnody for the aged carp of Copenhagen

Copenhagen (AP) - The beloved old carp at Denmark's aquarium, senile for weeks, finally has gone the way of all fish.

"We are naturally a little sad, he was kind of a friend to us," Dr Arne Schioetz, the aquarium director said. "It was a regular ritual to let him suck our fingers."

Nobody really knows how old the grey European carp was when it died on Monday, but Dr Schioetz's educated estimate is that it was at least 45 years old.

The dead fish, or at least part of it, will remain on display in a museum at Copenhagen University.

Ship where war ended returns to duty

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

After 29 years in mothballs the USS Missouri, the American battleship on whose decks the Japanese surrendered at the end of the Second World War, is to be returned to active duty.

The 3874 45,000-ton battleship was anchored off Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, when the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur, representing the allied powers, and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz for the United States.

She is equipped with 16in guns, comparable to the largest at present possessed by US Navy vessels, capable of delivering 2,500lb projectiles 23 miles. Currently she is something of a tourist attraction among ships in the "inactive fleet" at the Puget Sound naval



Out of mothballs: The battleship Missouri in action

shipyard, Bremerton, Washington State. The ship is in good condition. The outside was coated with preservatives when she was taken out of commission.

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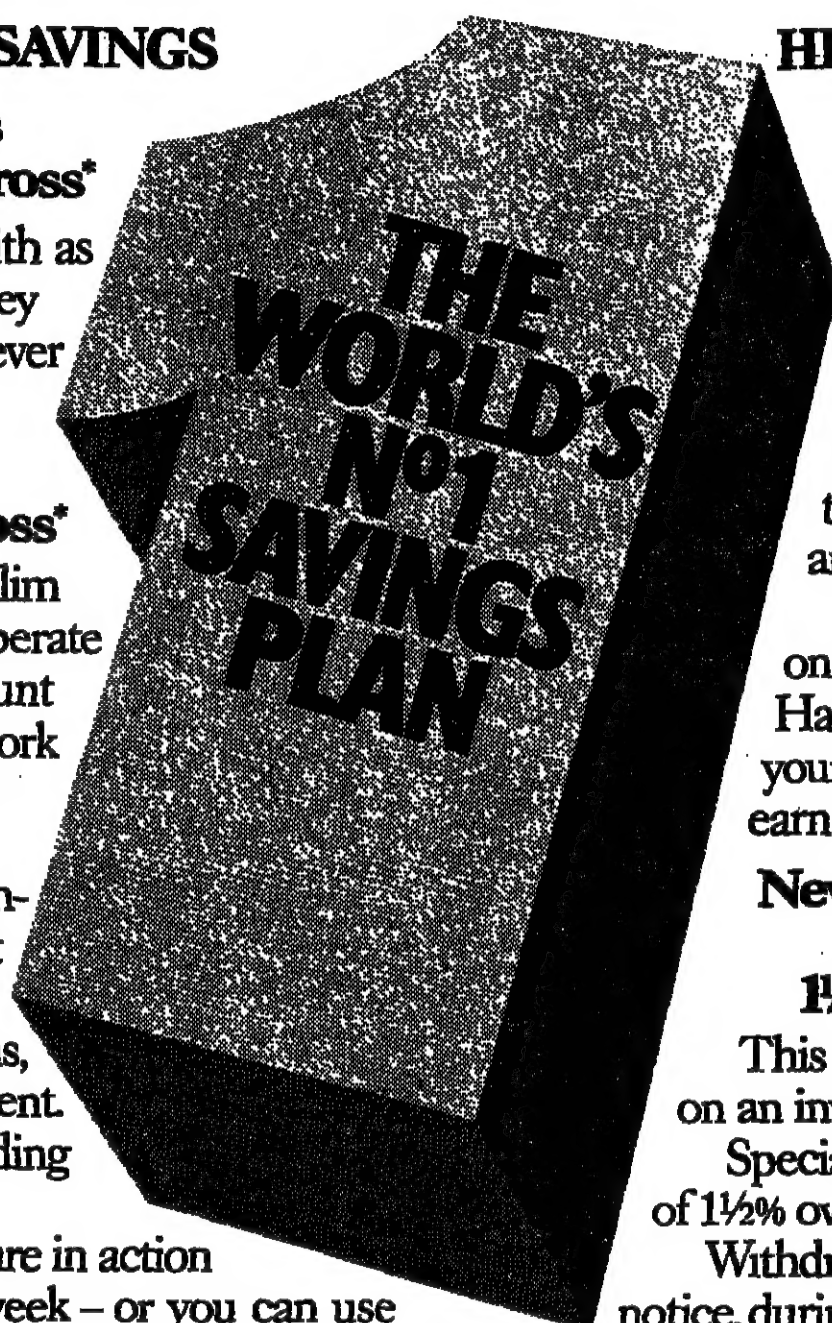
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González flies to Paris seeking joint action against Basque terror

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister who is on a private visit to Paris, met yesterday against a backdrop of growing exasperation in Madrid with French attitudes to its EEC entry and to Basque refugees in France.

There has been no official visit between the two socialist leaders since Señor González came to power just over a year ago, but there has been frequent encounters at ministerial level between the two countries.

An organization called the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder in Bayonne on Monday night of an alleged Spanish Basque terrorist, Ramón Oniadara, who has lived in France since 1979.

Señor Oniadara was serving behind a bar when three of four men burst in and shot him. The group was later seen escaping in a car licensed in Navarre, Spain. There has been an increasing number of attacks and kidnap attempts against Spanish refugees in the French Basque country over the past few months, and there are strong suspicions that the Spanish police may be involved.

Four Spanish police in plain clothes were recently caught red-handed by French police in Bayonne as they tried to kidnap a suspected leading member of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization. They were im-

prisoned and charged with premeditated wounding, but were released earlier this month, allegedly for lack of evidence.

It was noted, however, that their release came only a few days after an anonymous caller had telephoned the Red Cross in San Sebastian, in the Spanish Basque country, demanding their liberation in return for the release of M Segundo Marcy, a businessman of Spanish origin, living in the French Basque border town of Hendaye, who had been kidnapped two days earlier.

Responsibility for the kidnapping of M Marcy, who was freed last week, was claimed by the hitherto unknown Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group.

In its latest telephoned message to a newspaper in St Jean-de-Luz, the group said that Señor Oniadara's murder was part of "the systematic line of attack against ETA terrorists which we are going to pursue to the bitter end in France in the coming weeks. The murders recently committed in the Spanish Basque country will meet with a firm response."

"Today's execution is only the beginning. We will demonstrate in the same way against any French people who hide, collaborate with or give work to terrorists... You will hear from us again soon."

Spain feels that, despite initial promises of closer coop-

eration, after Señor González came to power, France has done little to help tackle the Basque terrorist problem, which has caused 15 deaths in about 60 attacks in the last three months alone. It claims that the French Basque country has become a sanctuary for ETA militants.

The other big bone of contention is France's apparent dragging of its feet over Spain's application to join the EEC. French farmers, particularly in the fruit and wine-growing area of the south-west, are vehemently opposed to Spain or Portugal's entry, fearing that their markets will be swamped by the unrestricted import of cheaper products.

Earlier this month, however, Señor González described as "very positive" President Mitterrand's latest comments on the enlargement of the community, in which he called on the Ten to at least set a date for a decision.

● **MADRID:** The Basque autonomous Government yesterday, condemned what it called "dirty war methods" of fighting terrorism after the Bayonne killing (Richard Wigg writes).

Protests were held in towns on the Spanish side of the frontier, with main road traffic blocked at Renteria, where demonstrators carried banners reading: "You are the terrorists - González, Mitterrand."



No sale: Mr Regan, the US Treasury Secretary (right) and Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, showing the press computers recovered in Europe en route to Russia.

Seized Russian-bound computers on show

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration has its eyes on the Soviet acquisition of Western military technology by displaying pieces of an advanced computer system seized just before it was to be smuggled into Soviet Union.

The Administration has been arguing Congress to tighten federal controls over the export of high technology to the Soviet

Union and other governments it considers unfriendly.

It is also drawing with its NATO allies and Japan a stricter list of strategic goods that must be exported to the Warsaw pact countries.

Mr Donald Regan, the treasury Secretary, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, held a joint press conference to show their concern this week. They used a

room crowded with large pieces of sophisticated equipment they said represented about half of the shipment recently stopped by the West Germans in Hamburg.

Mr Regan said the interception of the equipment on November 9 foiled what could have been a Soviet coup. If the powerful system, known as the Vax 782, and worth \$15 (\$1m) had reached the Soviet Union it

would have increased the accuracy of Soviet weapons.

Another shipment of highly sophisticated American-made computers, also believed to be bound for the Soviet Union, was seized in late November at the Swedish southern port of Helsingborg. US and Swedish officials are now negotiating for the return of the consignment which is believed to be part of the same computer system

The Fat One has £239m for Spain's gamblers

From Harry Debellis, Madrid

Father Christmas looks like Scrooge alongside Spain's most beloved Yuletide character, El Gordo. (The Fat One).

That is what Spaniards call their annual Christmas draw, still the world's biggest lottery despite the slipping value of the peseta. The total prize money this year, 53.1 billion pesetas (£239m), is probably greater than the entire annual state budget of some Third World countries.

With 46 top prizes of 250m pesetas (more than £1m) each, and hundreds of thousands of other prizes ranging from hefty to modest, El Gordo is a bet that gambling Spaniards cannot pass up. At the very least, they know that the smallest prize, amounting to a refund of the cost of the ticket, will be paid to one out of every 10.

Tomorrow morning, just as they have done for well over a century, the boys of St Dileon-so's school in Madrid, togged out in their best blue serge, will hold all Spain spellbound as

they strike up their monotonous tune to welcome The Fat One.

The boys stand on a stage flanked by two huge wire cages full of tiny wooden balls. The balls in one cage are painted with numbers, all five work on the tickets. Each ball in the other cage is painted with a prize amount. As each pair is drawn, one boy sings out the lucky number and another sings the prize, to a staccato reminiscent of Gregorian chant.

Such a payoff would not be possible unless Spaniards spent a lot on El Gordo, and they do. The total this year is expected to reach 75.9 billion pesetas or about £10 for every man, woman and child.

The cost of full ticket, with potential winnings of up to 250m pesetas, is 25,000 pesetas, but few Spaniards hold a whole ticket. Most buy shares in one or more numbers. The most common share is one-tenth, known as a decimo.



Jodie Foster: Fined

Drugs found in actress's case

Boston (AP) - Jodie Foster, aged 20, the American actress, was briefly detained and fined an undisclosed amount after \$100 (£70) worth of cocaine was found in her luggage when she arrived at Boston airport from Paris. The drug was discovered during a routine customs inspection on Monday. Miss Foster is a student at Yale.

With President Andropov still absent from public view, speculation is growing that he may break all precedents by not appearing at next week's crucial Central Committee and Supreme Soviet (Parliament) sessions.

Mr Andropov, who suffers from kidney and heart ailments, has not been seen since the middle of August, and did not attend the annual parade on Red Square on November 7. "A Soviet leader can only afford so many unprecedented absences before his political credibility is called into question", one diplomatic observer said.

The Soviet leadership is nominally collective but in practice dominated by one man, who sets the tone for the regime and largely determines policy.

As General Secretary of the party, Mr Andropov is obliged to guide the Politburo and Central Committee, from which he derives his power. As head of state he would normally preside at the Supreme Soviet sessions which follow the biannual-party meetings.

It was reported recently that Mr Andropov had returned to work on a part-time basis, though observers are divided over whether he is at his desk in the Kremlin or at a special Federal sanatorium just outside Moscow.

Informed sources said the Soviet leader spent most of his time at the sanatorium, and was convalescing after kidney surgery. He is said to have difficulty moving about. The United States magazine Newsweek reported this week that Mr

Next week crucial for ailing leader

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Andropov had less than two years to live, but no other source has confirmed this.

There have been persistent rumours Mr Andropov is about to make his promised reappearance.

There were reports that he would be shown awarding

Hungarian minister to meet Kohl

Bonn (Reuters) - The Hungarian Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Varkonyi, will meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl here today for the first high-level encounter between a Nato and Warsaw Pact country since Moscow abandoned the Geneva missile talks last month.

Officials said Bonn would urge Hungary to use its influence in the seven-nation Pact to try to break the deadlock between Moscow and Washington.

Chancellor Kohl has written to all Warsaw Pact leaders, the Bonn Government announced yesterday. The note was thought by observers to be part of his efforts to revive arms control talks.

medals to the cosmonauts who returned from the Salyut 7 space station last month, but in the end the awards were merely announced in the press. Soviet leaders normally attend the ceremony.

There have been other suitable occasions, including the visit to Moscow last week by the Foreign Minister of Finland, but none has been used.

Madrid disco owners moved to jail

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

A magistrate yesterday ordered that the four co-owners and manager of the Madrid discotheque, where 80 people died in a weekend fire, be transferred to Carabanchel jail. The five have been held without charge in police custody since Saturday.

Madrid's College of Architects joined the public outcry, alleging yesterday that the majority of discotheques in the capital had been checked under the 1982 revised safety regulations.

The architects also criticized the new regulations and said they lacked precise technical specifications. Months before

the tragedy, the architects said, they told Industry Ministry inspectors that they were worried about conditions in the discotheques.

Madrid City Council officials have already admitted the 1982 regulations do not lay down anything about the frequency of safety checks.

Law Report December 21 1983

Buyers liable for repudiation

Burger & Co v Gill & Duffus SA

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman [Specces delivered December 15]

Buyers who repudiated a contract of sale by sample by wrongfully rejecting valid shipping documents on their presentation accompanied by a valid certificate of quality in respect of only part of the contract goods, could not avoid liability for the repudiation of the contract by that part of the contract goods in respect of which a certificate of quality had not been obtained, were nonconform with their description in a manner which went also to quality and without proving that the sellers could not have obtained a valid certificate of quality for those goods.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the sellers, Burger & Co Inc from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Robert Goff dissenting) on January 27, 1983, who allowed an appeal by the buyers, Gill & Duffus SA, from a decision of Mr Justice Lloyd on July 28, 1981.

Mr Bernard Rix, QC, and Miss Elizabeth Birch for the sellers; Mr David Johnson, QC, and Mr Pergrin Simon for the buyers.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the subject matter of the appeal was a single contract dated December 22, 1976 for the sale of 500 tonnes of "Argentine Bolita Beans 1974 Crop" as per sample, cif Le Havre, on the terms of GAFTA 41 subject to certain variations, of which the most material was a provision that a certificate of quality at port of discharge given by the General Superintendence Co Ltd, Paris (GSC) should be final.

On February 3, 1977 the full 500 tonnes was shipped on the Salland from Costa Rica and arrived at Le Havre on March 21, but only 445 tonnes of the consignment were discharged. The balance was overcarried to Rotterdam and brought back to Le Havre on April 2.

Shipping documents which covered the whole contract quantity of 500 tonnes were presented at the buyer's bank as provided for in the contract clause relating to payment, on March 22, 1977. The buyers rejected the documents and refused

to pay against presentation on the ground that they did not include the GSC certificate as to quality.

A GSC certificate under the certification clause was incapable of being included among shipping documents which a seller was required to tender to his buyer in return for payment of the price under a contract of sale in ordinary circumstances.

The sellers did not elect to treat the buyers' refusal to pay upon the presentation of documents as a wrongful repudiation of the contract, but instead set about obtaining a GSC certificate in relation to the 445 tonnes that had been discharged. Shipping documents were re-presented to the buyers together with that certificate on March 30, but were again rejected.

The sellers then did treat that refusal as a wrongful repudiation of the contract and sought to treat the contract as rescinded. That had the consequence in law that all primary obligations of the parties under the contract should have been terminated.

That termination did not prejudice the right of the party so electing to claim damages from the party in repudiatory breach for any loss sustained in consequence on the non-performance by the latter of his primary obligations under the contract future as well as past.

When the sellers elected to treat the contract as repudiated on April 1, they ceased to be under any contractual obligation to deliver up the contract goods, and the buyers were liable to the sellers in damages for breach of contract.

Prima facie the measure of such damages would be the difference between the contract price of 500 tonnes and the price obtainable for the documents representing the goods at date of the acceptance of the repudiation.

Words used in a contract of sale for goods which were not "specific goods" as defined in section 6 of the Sale of Goods Act 1979, often included words which described a characteristic as to quality or condition that they possessed which distinguished them from other goods of the same general kind.

The Court of Appeal was correct in its conclusion in *Toupin v Continental Grain Co* ([1974] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 111), that where the description of the goods included a statement as to their quality and

provided that a certificate as to quality was to be final, the certificate was final as to the correspondence of the goods with the description of quality in the contract notwithstanding that the certificate was proved to have been inaccurate.

The reason why it was consistent with section 13 of the 1893 Act was that while "description" itself was an ordinary English word, the Act contained no definition of what it meant when it referred to a sale "by description". One had to look to the contract as a whole to identify the kind of goods that the seller was agreeing to sell and the buyer to buy.

Where the sale was "by sample as well as by description" character-istics of the goods which would be apparent on reasonable examination of the sample were unlikely to have been intended by the parties to form part of the "description" by which the goods were sold, even though such characteristics were mentioned in references in the contract to the goods that were its subject matter.

When a buyer under a cif contract received the goods which he transferred the property in the goods to him, the property in the goods he obtained were subject to the condition subsequent that it would contract to return them to the seller if upon examination the buyer found them to be not in accordance with the contract in some respect which would entitle him to reject them and did in fact reject them.

That was because the cif contract remained on foot, and being a contract of the sale of goods, the buyer had a right under section 34 of the 1893 Act to reject the goods if they did not conform with the contract and returned that right until he had had a reasonable opportunity to examine the goods after delivery.

Given the absence of any suggestion of difference in quality between the 55 tonnes and the 445 tonnes, the GSC had certified as equal to the sample, the buyers lacked the finding of fact essential to their defence in part to the seller's claim, in damages that on a balance of probabilities GSC would not have issued a similar certificate in respect of the 55 tonnes.

LORD KEITH, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon and Lord Templeman agreed.

Solicitors: Middleton Potts & Co, Richards Butler & Co.

European Law Report

Limits of promotions within EEC law

Apple and Pear Development Council v K. J. Lewis Ltd

Case 222/82

Before: Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, President, and Judges T. Koopmans, K. Behrmann, P. Pescatore, Lord MacKenzie Stuart, A. O'Keefe, G. Bosco, O. Due and U. Everling.

Advocate General: M. S. Rozes [Judgment delivered December 13]

The Apple and Pear Development Council was established in 1966 by statutory instrument under the Industrial Organization and Development Act 1947. Its functions include the promotion of scientific research, development of new materials, improvement in working methods and the marketing of products. Its activities are financed by a charge on growers.

The council commenced proceedings in the Tynbridge Wells County Court to recover from three growers the charge due for the year 1980-81. The defendants counterclaimed for restitution of the sums paid since 1978, alleging that the continuation of the council was contrary to Community law. The county court made a reference under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In its judgment the court held: Activities relating to scientific or technical research, the compilation of statistics, the dissemination among growers of the information obtained and purely advisory functions were not of such a character as to hinder intra-Community trade or the functioning of the common organization of the market.

On the other hand, the description of the other functions entrusted to the council did not exclude the possibility that they might be exercised in a manner capable of hindering either intra-Community trade or the functioning of the common organization of the market.

Publicity and promotional activities might be prohibited by article 30 of the Treaty if the campaign was supported by public authorities. The council, which was set up by the Government of a member state and financed by a charge on growers,

could not under Community law enjoy the same freedom as regards methods of advertising as that enjoyed by producers themselves or producers' associations of a voluntary character.

It was under a duty not to engage in any advertising intended to discourage the purchase of products of member states or to disparage those products in the eyes of consumers. Nor must it advise consumers to purchase domestic products solely by reason of their national origin.

On the other hand, article 30 did not prevent such a body from drawing attention, in its publicity, to the specific qualities of fruit grown in the member state or in question or from organizing campaigns to promote the sale of certain varieties, mentioning their particular properties, even if those varieties were typical of national production.

Unless the rules on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables provided otherwise, member states and bodies such as the council were prevented from imposing unilateral provisions concerning the quality of the fruit marketed by growers. The Community rules did not prevent competition regarding the quality of the produce between growers in a member state or between those growers and importers. Nor did they prevent growers from concerning themselves with the reputation of national produce or a body such as the council from giving advice to growers in the form of simple recommendations concerning the quality and presentation of the fruit marketed. But any attempt by such a body to impose compliance with those recommendations by applying any sort of penalties or by using the quality and presentation of the fruit as a condition to bring pressure to bear on growers or on traders would be unlawful.

The obligation to become a member of a body such as the council could not be regarded as incompatible with Community law unless the activities of the body were themselves contrary to it.

Charges such as those levied by the council, being measures of a fiscal nature or of equivalent effect, fell within the scope of articles 9 to 16 and 95 of the Treaty, not articles 30 to 34.

Since the charge in question did not apply to imported produce and only affected produce intended for export in the same way as produce sold on the home market, it did not raise any problem in relation to articles 9 to 16 and 95.

A charge imposed on agricultural producers was incompatible with the Community provisions relating to agricultural policy in so far as it had the effect, as a result of its influence on price formation or through a change in the structure of agricultural holdings, of impeding the functioning of the machinery provided for in the common organization of the market.

As a general rule, a charge of which the proceeds were essentially used for publicity measures which would otherwise have to be financed by producers themselves could not have such effects but the levying of such a charge as the one in question would be contrary to Community law to the extent to which it served to finance activities incompatible with Community law.

The fact that the council was created and maintained with the express approval of growers represented more than half the land planted and apparently representing a large number of persons carrying on business or employed in the industry did not affect the position.

Articles 30 and 34 of the Treaty conferred on individuals rights which they might enforce before national courts. The same direct effect applied in regard to the regulations on the common organization of the market.

The interpretation of Community law given by the court under article 177 of the Treaty might and must be applied by the national court even to legal relationships arising and established before the judgment rendered on the request for interpretation, provided that in other respects the conditions, which enabled an action relating to the application of Community law to be brought before the courts having jurisdiction, were satisfied.

It followed that the provisions of Community law might be raised as a defence to a claim for payment of a charge incompatible with them and that they might also be raised as grounds for claiming restitution of such a charge, where it had been improperly levied.

Where a charge served to finance a body, some of whose activities were contrary to Community law, it was for the national court to decide whether, in the light of the importance of the activities in question, that rendered the charge unlawful and must entail total or partial exemption. It was also for the national court to determine, according to national law, whether and to what extent such a charge

Court of Justice of the European Communities

Whether rum importation quota is lawful

Commission v Council

Case 218/82

Before: Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, President, and Judges T. Koopmans, K. Behrmann, Y. Galmot, P. Pescatore, Lord MacKenzie Stuart, A. O'Keefe, G. Bosco, O. Due, U. Everling and C. Kakouris.

Advocate General: M. S. Rozes [Judgment delivered December 13]

Article 2(1) of the second ACP-EEC Convention (OJ No L 347/1 of December 22, 1980) stated that products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states would be imported into the Community free of customs duties and charges having equivalent effect.

Article 1 of Protocol No 5 provided that, until the entry into force of a common organization of the market in spirits, rum originating in the ACP states would be imported duty-free into the Community under conditions such as to permit the development of traditional trade flows between the ACP states and the Community and between the member states. The object was to develop traditional trade flows while limiting the amount of rum which could be imported into the Community duty-free.

Article 2 of the protocol derogated from article 2(1) of the convention, providing that the Community would fix annually the quantity of rum which might be imported duty-free.

Council regulation No 1696/82 (OJ No L 189/1 of July 1, 1982)

fixed the duty-free rum quota for the year 1982-1983 and divided it into two instalments, one for the United Kingdom and the other for the remaining member states. The latter was then allocated between those member states.

Article 4(2) of the regulation provided that the United Kingdom would take the steps necessary to ensure that the quantities imported duty-free from the ACP states were restricted to those meeting its domestic consumption requirements.

The Commission sought the annulment of article 4(2) on the ground that it infringed article 30 and 34 of the EEC Treaty by preventing the United Kingdom from exporting to other member states rum imported duty-free from the ACP states. The Commission did not challenge the validity of the provisions of the ACP quota between the member states.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held that, if article 4(2) prohibited the export of rum from the United Kingdom to other member states, it would breach the Treaty provisions relating to the free movement of goods: the division of a tariff quota into national quotas might, in certain circumstances, be compatible with the Treaty subject to the express condition that it did not hinder the free movement of the goods covered by the quota after they had been admitted to free circulation in the territory of a member state.

The question was whether that interpretation of article 4(2) was correct. The court held that, where secondary legislation was ambiguous, preference was to be given to the interpretation which rendered the Treaty rather than that which would lead it to be incompatible.

The court concluded that article 4(2) did not require the United Kingdom to limit exports to other member states of rum originating in ACP states but only to ensure that those quantities imported by it were limited to its domestic consumption requirements.

That interpretation was consistent with the English version, without being inconsistent with the other language versions, and corresponded to the objective of Protocol No 5. In consequence, the court held article 4(2) of the regulation to be compatible with the Treaty and dismissed the action.

Foreign Office censured by MPs

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Foreign Office was censured by the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts yesterday for its failure to pursue economy measures in managing its £200m diplomatic estate.

The all-party committee, which has a Conservative majority, began by criticizing the Foreign Office for taking almost three years to issue new standards for residential accommodation overseas.

It was explained to the MPs that running the overseas estate was a matter of "extraordinary complexity" and that, though it was recognized diplomats should be housed as efficiently and inexpensively as possible, staff had to have "the tools for the job".

But the committee commented: "We were surprised to learn that, in promulgating the new standards, FCO did not call for specific action to reallocate or dispose of over-scale property."

"We would have expected to see much more emphasis on the need for economy, and for general adherence to the standards, and instructions to deal quickly with any property which was seriously over-scale."

The report specifically cited over-scale residences in Nairobi, Vienna and Singapore, where the Foreign Office had shown reluctance to economize. Action has been agreed on Nairobi and Vienna, but ministers have decided that Eden House should be retained in Singapore, though the house is 69 per cent over-scale and was last year valued at £2.75m.

The MPs said that the Foreign Office gave too much emphasis to prestige or tradition. "We question the need to maintain in the 1980s a lavish style of personal accommodation which appears to have outlived its time. We therefore urge FCO to adopt a radical change in attitude, giving a new and positive emphasis to considerations of cost effectiveness."

The Foreign Office had tended to resist the agency's economy plans "for questionable reasons", and officials had shown little sign of "enthusiasm or urgency in pursuing the possibilities of greater economy and efficiency."

Fifth Report from the Committee of Public Accounts, Session 1983-84: Economy Measures in the Civil, Defence and Overseas Estates, Stationery Office, 26.

Turkey gets a warning on missiles

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* yesterday warned Turkey against strengthening its military links with the United States and said that Moscow would not accept American nuclear missiles on Turkish territory.

The newspaper said that Ankara was ignoring past agreements with Moscow which pledged both sides to avoid the use of threat or force.

Leading Turkish politicians were now calling for an American "nuclear umbrella" over their territory and trying to condition the public to the idea of deploying weapons there, the newspaper said.

It added that this would be a breach of the treaties and that Moscow would retaliate.

It also reminded Ankara that Moscow had forced the removal of United States Jupiter missiles deployed in Turkey in 1959 within nine months of their arrival.

The Communist Party is now in the middle of important elections to local offices which Mr Andropov had hoped to use as a mini-purge. An attack in *Pravda* last week on party incompetence in Moldavia suggests that Mr Andropov is seeking to push the purge through from his sick bed.

There are also to be elections to the Supreme Soviet next March. Although the elections are a formality, since no choice of candidates is offered, the occasion could be used to ease out ministers from the Brezhnev era.

May inquiry reopened

Rome (AP) - A magistrate has reopened an investigation into the disappearance of Mrs Jeanette May

THE ARTS

Dance in France Russian rock lures the Parisians

If French ballet dancers can put on an evening of American modern dance, one ought not to be surprised at a troupe of Russian actors arriving in Paris with a rock opera. Versatility is the name of the game. I was able to catch both shows within 24 hours, with an early-evening programme by a visiting American company thrown in for good measure.

I am told that a tele-recording of the Russian production looked dull on Channel 4; if so, it cannot have done justice to the effect on stage at L'Espace Pierre Cardin. Acting and dancing on steep translucent ramps, with a marvellously simple décor of a ship's prow, a few planks and ropes, imaginatively lit, the Komsovol troupe from Moscow conjure up a real-life adventure of 1806 when Count Rezanov sailed to California and tried to establish a trade and political link between Russia and the then Spanish possession.

Rezanov's ship was the Apos - a Russian word meaning a hope - a word that could be true: but it did not. He met, loved and seduced the daughter of the governor of San Francisco, returned home for permission to marry her, and died. She waited for him 35 years, then entered a convent. Their night of love is shown in what is virtually a *pas de deux* arranged by the Bolshoi star Vladimir Vassiliev, who also staged a trained dancers.

The score of *Apos*, by Alexis Ribnikoff, ranges from ancient church music through haunting ballads for the ship's officers to group called Rock by a Nicolai Karachentsev, as Rezanov, needs the microphone to cope with his limited amount of singing, but justifies his casting by the power and nuance of his acting: everyone else can put over the numbers as effectively as the lines - which, incidentally, are mostly spoken just like an operatic ensemble, everyone facing front but coming in with perfect timing.

The book is by Andrei Woznessenski, based on his long poem of the same title, and the production is directed by Marc Zakharov. Although

I know scarcely a dozen words of Russian, I was held and thrilled throughout. Which is more than I can say of the programme of contemporary works by the Ballet de l'Opéra at the Opéra-Comique.

We all know what happens to best-laid plans, and Nureyev's intention of a triple bill by Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and William Forsythe was knocked aside first when Taylor's other commitments necessitated postponing his *Rite of Spring* until next June, then when Forsythe developed food poisoning and his premiere had to be put back a fortnight. All the same, Nureyev managed to put on a complete programme of modern American choreography, and only one real dud among them.

That one is *Marée de morte eau*, a pretentiously silly work by Tim Wengert, formerly a dancer with Martha Graham. Having assembled a cast led by one of the most expressive French ballerinas, Wilfride Prollet, and four of the most gifted younger dancers, he has not much more to offer them than poses, groupings and walking around in costumes that suggested an alternative title: "I dreamed I was on stage in my Maidenform bra". Maybe they should have gone for sponsorship.

Infinitely more worthwhile, and for me the evening's highlight, was Karole Armitage's *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*, to Rhys Chatham's heavy rock score. I wrote about it a few months ago when the Opéra Ballet's experimental group gave it at Théâtre de la Ville; it proved equally effective transferred from the open stage there to the more conventional one at the Opéra-Comique.

Dancers of the experimental group also undertook the Cunningham premiere, *Inter II*, a revised version of a work the choreographer's own company gave at Sadler's Wells on one of their London visits. John Cage's score, with sounds of water slopping or tinkling around, caused quite a few intermission jokes about



Effective transfer: *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*

the need to "laire pipi", but the dancers tackled the complex assignment, with its many demanding, balances and slowly evolving movements, conscientiously, although unfortunately without quite the understanding of weight and emphasis that could convert it from an exercise to a lively experience.

Nobody could accuse Louis Falco's *Black and Blue* of lacking liveliness. Set to songs by Harry Nilsson and Randy Newman, it is a choreographic joke about boxing. Jean Guizenz brings a wary but massive power to the old champion, Bull Washington; Charles Jude is his hopeful young rival. Kid Lefty, and there are five others engaged in minor bouts - three of them played by a group of young women as delightful as they are talented: Florence Clerc, Marie-Claude Pietragalla and Marie-Josée Redont.

Two of the younger male soloists, Frédéric Olivieri and Wilfrid Romoli,

also have a round that suggests they have the quality to become champions themselves, and (for no very good reason except a casual line in one of the songs) there is a chorus line of spacemen, who are fine when they simply progress across the back, dimly seen through gauze, but Falco runs out of ideas for them when they actually invade the stage towards the end.

To be honest, Falco gets a bit short of ideas generally through trying to go 10 rounds, and like many of his works it ends inconclusively, but it is fun most of the time and the dancers (direct from the opulent *Raymond* up the Boulevard des Italiens) let their hair down engagingly.

The spirit they bring to Falco's choreography causes me to wonder what they might make of Lucinda Childs's. She and her company, at the Théâtre de la Ville, gave three works in a 75-minute programme without intermission. What energy!

The oldest work of the evening, *Dance I* from 1979, shows her style at its purest: based, like the Philip Glass score, on repetition with tiny variations, it has tremendous pace and constantly changing detail that demands, and rewards, close attention as the eight dancers whizz back and forwards across the stage in pairs.

Two later pieces show the same principles being pulled sideways into more elaborate floor patterns and greater variety of pace. The earlier work has a bigger impact but Childs has obviously found a way forward that does not distort the original concept. The way she commands both form and individuality ought to be an inspiration to modern British choreographers, too many of whom seem to flounder about without either. It is frustrating that, when she brings her company to Paris, nobody can add a side trip to London.

John Percival

Television

Gripping snapshot

With 1984 so close, the literary CID, always alert for a sign that about overtime, is already conspicuously reinvestigating George Orwell. His case is unlikely to be closed. Exposition is indeed so abundant that generations who have not read him might conclude that there is no necessity to do so.

Should that be the case, last night's BBC1 drama-documentary, *Orwell on Jura* - the Crystal Spirit, may have caused them to think again, spurring them to appraise for themselves this odd, lonely chap with the obsession with truth, the admirable scepticism and the deep suspicion of power. BBC Scotland struck tellingly here while other trons are still heating. It will be interesting to see if anything - and there will be much more - comes up the excellent snapshot they presented.

What they did was to focus on the man, to re-enact the writing of *Nineteen Eighty Four* while Orwell was painfully descending his last steps, accelerating that descent with his own grim determination to have it to his own, grudgingly yielding satisfaction. It was beautifully shot on the island where he wrote it, in the house where he did so. Alan Plater had the assistance of Orwell's

biographer, Professor Bernard Crick, and various people who remembered Orwell's last stand in Jura, for his script.

He made a brilliant job of it, the dialogue spare, mordant, intuitive and sadly humorous. Ronald Pickup was Orwell, established in the part before he had spoken a word by a back shot showing the long, lean, overcast figure with the unmistakable hair-cut. Nothing he did subsequently took away from the conviction that this was Orwell.

The supporting cast was equal to his virtuoso performance. Fiona Walker as his sister Avril and David Swift as his artist friend were particularly good. Plater's script enabled the director John Glenister and Mr Plater to go into 1984 with well-patted backs.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Aladdin Shaftesbury

As you would expect from a line-up including Tommy Trinder, Roy Kinnear, Lynsey de Paul, and Derek Griffiths, story-telling is not a priority in this Shaftesbury pantomime. Living up to its name, the Theatre of Comedy company is out mainly to raise a laugh by doing its own thing.

Gales of mirth and non-stop audience contact are the target, and Tudor Davies's production is arranged as a series of spot routines for everyone in sight. Mr Kinnear appears with David Jackson as a helmet-bashing Peking cop. A mystified Mr Trinder periodically wanders on with the one line "They seek him here...". Everything stops reverentially when Miss de Paul sings; it is fair to add that she has a nice line in *Knightsbridge chinolise*. And Mr Griffiths takes the bill as a King Rat Abanazer, orchestrating his own boos and disdainfully mingling among the customers to tell them that he has poisoned their ice cream and deflated their tyres.

But, if anything sums up the show, it is Mr Davies's Dame, a pouting rosebud-lipped haridan with a honking cleavage, very quick on his feet and no less nippy in ripping off the hoariest patter in the Christmas vault. "I must take down your particulars." "One is without."

You name it, and it crops up somewhere in the uncredited book.

Meanwhile, we have to roar a greeting to every entrance of Jill Gascoigne's cheeky cockney Aladdin, and Richard O'Sullivan's Wishee Washee; warn the cast of lurking gorillas, and hurl insults at each other. As there is also a black theatre number to get through, plus tinselled excursions into revved-up Borodin, there is not much time to spare for any silly old story about a magic lamp.

This is a pity, as the book contains two promising new twists. Abanazer first casts a spell to save Aladdin from an imperial beheading; and subsequently transforms Wishee Washee into the Slave of the Lamp. Either of these ideas could have been interestingly followed up. But, come the cave scene, and Aladdin has forgotten any reason for being grateful to his benefactor. And although Mr O'Sullivan appears to well-morried advantage in a gold-lamé track suit with a nodding cobra headpiece, his transformation among has no influence on events. I have never seen the final rescue scene pass off with so little attempt at suspense.

The show played against a hideous set of cutouts depicting the Peking supermarket or the Twankey laundry in spidery line drawings (by Alan Miller Bunford) and generally lit by James Baird in bilious yellow.

Irving Wardle

Gulliver's Travels Gate at Latchmere

For all its feckly-shirted mariners clinging to the main mast, or choreographed Houyhnhnms in body stockings, Lou Stein's adaptation of Swift is not much more than a director's exercise. It adds little (and is not really a director's exercise) to stage Lilliput or Brobdingnag by having actors look upwards or downwards at imaginary and unstageable figures; the Laputans' experiments gain little by showing a plastic tube shoved up a toy dog's behind, and the little bits of dramaturgy necessary to cover awkward joints in the plot sound as though they were written on the back of an envelope.

Of course, Swift's satire and his fierce indignation (his own famous words) at mankind's follies and cruelties become contemporary afresh in every decade. In London now, who needs a commentator for Gulliver's commendation of gunpowder as a civilized device for blowing people up, for the horse kingdom's sexual equality in education or indeed for Laputa's planning blight through the unfinished schemes of "projection"?

But all this is in the book, available to read and full of a

special character, harshly vindictive and whimsical by turns, that owes nothing to a director's prop basket or performers like Joanna Myers, regarding the courtiers in these curious kingdoms only as a heavenly chance for mugging and grimacing.

As the Gullivers themselves (there are two), the elegantly grizzled and bespectacled John Castle, dilly interpreting a multiplicity of nonsense languages from a corner of the stage, sees his younger self find himself successively a giant, a midget, a dumbo among intellectual nutters and a human inferior graciously received by horses.

The Frank and curly Michael Fenton-Stevens dances like a circus freak for the Brobdingnagians and lends the Lilliputians a massive ear, but cannot make his Rediff home base any more real than it is in the book.

Seeing Lilliput represented by a cushion sewn with green bobbles and indulgently surveyed by the young Gulliver, I wished that the theatre would allow a few fictional works to live untouched. Not much hope in view of the Balzac, Defoe, Charlotte Brontë, Laurie Lee and Dostoyevsky adaptations in recent months. Who is next?

Anthony Masters

Concert Accent on Schubert

Nash Ensemble
St John's/Radio 3

Christmas relaxation in what is proving a distinguished series of BBC lunchtime concerts was provided by the Nash Ensemble in Schubert's Octet, as unsuspicious a piece of divertimento-type music as has been written. Now that Schubert's Septet is quite justifiably rarely played, we are less aware of the strong tradition of early nineteenth century "broken consort" pieces to which many composers, notably Hummel, contributed many works.

It would have been a callous heart that was not touched again by the generous warmth and lilting rhythms of the Nash's performance, especially in its ebullient but always lyrical finale, with smiling, trilling sequences. There were some outstanding contributions from the clarinet of Michael Collins in particular, and the horn took up the agile theme of the first movement showed a sense of fine interplay and responsiveness in the group.

One small aspect worried me. In an interesting essay published a year ago, Arnold Feil showed how meticulous was Schubert's use of accents in the Scherzo of this work: he does not mark thumps on every barline, as the Nash naturally played it, but two thumps followed by two unaccented bars - and, as Feil pointed out, the confusion between decrescendo marks and accent marks in the notation is considerable, and was not clarified here.

Listening to the whole work, the prominence and variety of accents was very striking. Those in the snister introduction to the finale were played with a sharp, effective attack, but those in the opening Allegro too often turned into just a lunge. The instruments of the time far more naturally made a biting attack followed by a sudden decay: to try and recreate the complexity indicated by Schubert's markings might reveal more subtleties in the music.

Nicholas Kenyon

Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Lighthouse*, recently staged in Boston, is to be performed in Vienna by Studio K, a division of Wiener Kammeroper, opening on February 17. In June Studio K, which is dedicated to presenting contemporary works, will give the first stage production of *Lieder-Spiel* by the young Austrian composer Meinhard Rudenauer.

Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* will be given by a chamber group from Kent Opera at Strawberry Hill House on January 5 as the final event in a conference organized by the Heritage Education Trust to promote the use of historic houses, for educational purposes. The performance will be repeated the following night for the Friends of Kent Opera.



Doris Soffel: a touch of panache

Opera Linguistic limbo

Die Fledermaus
Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's *Fledermaus* dates from New Year's Eve, 1977. The present revival for much of its very considerable length gives the strong impression that it too was cast, and probably rehearsed, at round about that date. The production creeps through Julia Trevelyan Oman's dowdy sets - her least successful foray into opera - occasionally flexing an arthritic limb and pointing it in the direction of Strauss's Vienna. But that city remains dispiritingly out of reach: this *Fledermaus* stays exactly where it should not be, in some linguistic limbo, where every-one uses whatever tongue is convenient.

But it is Christmas. So the credits, which mostly concern the newcomers, should be listed first. There is, thank goodness, now a mezzo Orloffsky and a very good one in the shape of Doris Soffel. Her princeling is an exotic figure, his bald pate gleaming like a billiard ball, and with a general demeanour much like that assumed by Klaus Kinski during his forays into vampire-land. And Miss Soffel, who was disappointing in Bayreuth last summer, is right here in voice and leads the Act II ensembles with a panache sedily missing around her. Fledermaus O'Neill's Alfred is a sassy, roly-poly, Italianate in speech and song, quite happy anywhere provided that he can roll out an aria or a bit of one. And there is back again Josef Einrad's incomparable Frosch. He and Ingrid Baier, in the tiny part of Ida, bring the only authentic touch of Vienna.

In the pit is Plácido Domingo, conducting for the

Simon Cadell (right) bids farewell to *Hi-de-Hi!* in the run which opens at the Victoria Palace tomorrow. Interview by Sheridan Morley

One last fling at the old holiday camp

Even allowing for Danny La Rue in *Hello Dolly!* at the Prince of Wales, there cannot be much doubt that the campiest Christmas show of the season is to be found at the Victoria Palace where Simon Cadell leads the television cast of *Hi-de-Hi!* in their first London stage season. Bullin nostalgists addicted to this everyday story of life and times behind the scenes in a 1950s holiday camp may however be saddened to learn that the current season marks the retirement of Jeffrey Fairbrother, the bemused academic who for the last four years and 32 television episodes has been attempting to make some sort of sense of redcoat existence: though the series goes into a fifth season on BBC1 next year, Mr Cadell has decided that the time has come to return to his legitimate theatrical roots and in no uncertain way - as soon as the Victoria Palace runs ends in March, he goes to Birmingham to give his *Hamlet*.

This is not however the usual story of the clown with Shakespearean yearnings: Cadell comes from a classic-theatre family and started out in *As You Like It* long years before he ever got caught up with the camp comedies. And though the last year of his life has been solidly taken up with *Bourgeois* and BBC seasons of *Hi-de-Hi!* (with the exception of one short break during which, to declare all possible interests, he was kind enough to play in a show of mine at the King's Head) there is not much doubt that he and Fairbrother have gone as far as they can together.

"He begins to bore me, and when a character does that then you must stop playing him as soon as you can. Not that I'd have wanted to miss the chance these last four years of my life have been extremely happy, and there's no doubt that a hit comedy series on television moves you further forward in the theatre than a hit drama series. Look at what happened to Penelope Keith and Richard Briers and Paul Eddington: they all now lead the West End because of their television-comedy background. On the other hand there are dangers in staying too long with any one series: I live in dread of the night at Birmingham that I go out to do the first soliloquy and somebody calls out 'Hi-de-Hi!' from the gallery. It's already happened to me once, on a tour



of *Private Lives*, and it's the kind of thing you lie awake worrying about. That and being an 'all right' sort of Hamlet. I wouldn't mind being extremely bad, and I hope to be extremely good; what I couldn't bear was the idea of being all right in the role. It's not that sort of role, is it?"

Now 33, Cadell has already been in the business for 15 years; the son of a distinguished actor's agent, and the grandson of the actress Jean Cadell, he went to the Bristol Old Vic drama school in the 1967-69 generation of John Caird and Jeremy Irons and Tim Pigott-Smith.

"At first I was desperately shy of telling my father I wanted to go into the business, and when I did he told me I'd spend most of my life without work or money. But the only other possibility was Law, and I so hated the classics master at school that I never got as far as O-level Latin, so that ruled that out. But I did get to Bristol, and from there straight into the Rep as an assistant stage manager, which meant that in all I've only ever had four months out of work. I suppose it has been a rather charmed existence, though not in any way because my father is an agent. Indeed I've never used that connection: I decided that if he started telling people I was the greatest thing since sliced bread management would know he was lying, whereas if another agent started telling them that they might only think he was lying. But people always said I'd have to wait until 40 before I had any kind of success: I somehow never looked like a juvenile auditions."

Unusually for an actor of his generation and temperament, Cadell has lived almost entirely in the West End and regional theatre: his film career has thus far been limited to one non-appearance in a Peter Sellers comedy (his scene ended up on the time the major companies did start showing some interest he was already deeply into *Hi-de-Hi!*)

"But I've done some long West End runs, first with Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft in *Lloyd George Knew My Father* and then with John Clements in a Haymarket court drama, and I've been very lucky in working with that generation of players. I also have a brother

and sister in the business: Patrick, who is David Lean's first assistant on the filming of *Passage to India*, and Selma, who has recently been at the Court in *Top Girls*, so it does seem still to be a family affair."

Cadell was also involved for a while with the Actors Company, living through some turbulent backstage times: "I joined late, three years into the company's existence, and I made a lot of enemies there by a complex manoeuvre whereby a minority of us managed to ensure that Edward Featherbridge got control of the next season. He was clearly the right man for that job, but a lot of people in the company didn't agree and some of them still don't speak to me much even five years later. But that apart, the Actors Company was a remarkable experience: with an Arts Council grant of barely £50,000 we managed to tour two full-length plays (an Ayckbourn and a Shaw) plus two Pinter one-acts all around England and South America, plus a London season for which there was no funding at all. Part of the deal was that everything had to fit into half-a-dozen crates, except the actors who were allowed to travel separately."

"But I've always had a lot of time for the commercial theatre, which sadly most of my generation of actors seem now to look down on: there's no reason, critically or artistically, why Shaftesbury Avenue has to be a poor relation of the subsidized or regional companies. But, because twenty years ago commercial management panicked at the escalating costs and began doing one-set six-character shows, people realized they could get that by staying at home with the television. Which is what they did. Now we have to get them back by spending some money on creating shows they can't get at home; and I don't just mean big old musicals."

"The first show I ever saw in the West End was the Peter Brook *Tempest*, with John Gielgud, and where was that? Drury Lane. It doesn't have to be only for musicals. Look at the commercial-theatre success of *Amadeus* after it left the National. People will pay for an experience that television can't provide." And, judging by the advance booking at the Victoria Palace for *Hi-de-Hi!* also for one that television can provide.

THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN

"This is the story of a rape, of the events that led up to it and followed it...the affair ended with two nations locked in an imperial embrace of such long standing and subtlety it was no longer possible for them to know whether they hated or loved one another."

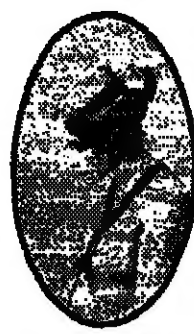
Paul Scott

Monday 9 January 1984

GRANADA TELEVISION

SPECTRUM

Sweet silver song of the Lark



A sweet and gentle rural memoir is on the verge of becoming a moneyspinning

exercise in merchandising.

Shirley Lowe charts the

making of *Lark Rise to*

Candleford into a

bandwagon for everything

from dolls and cosmetics

to bedspreads

"Oh, Laura! What a dunce you are," Miss Holmes, the village schoolmistress used to say to nine-year-old Flora Thompson when she couldn't do her sums. Miss Holmes was wrong, Flora, during the last years of her life, wrote three semi-autobiographical books about her Victorian childhood in rural Oxfordshire which, published in one volume, became *Lark Rise to Candleford*, the source and inspiration of a continuously expanding industry in nostalgia.

The hardback version of the book was published in 1939 and has been in print ever since. It went into paperback and sold 373,000 copies. Keith Dewhurst turned it into two plays for the National, it has been produced as a record, bought up for a film and planned as a television series. This month the lavishly illustrated, abridged version of Flora Thompson's classic, bound beguilingly in country-kitchen red and white cloth, notched up sales of 200,000 copies, making it a serious contender for the coveted *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* Christmas success spot.

Next year, *Lark Rise* rolls on to become a major merchandising project worth millions of pounds to stores and to the manufacturers of sheets and stationery and anything else that can be commercially glossed with the homespun charm and simple virtues of Mrs Thompson's lost world.

Flora Thompson was born in 1876 and lived with her parents and nine brothers and sisters (six of whom died in childhood) in the crowded end cottage of a hamlet called Juniper Hill in Oxfordshire - "A huddle of grey stone boxes with thatched or slated lids of the kind then thought good enough to house a farm labourer's family." In her books Juniper Hill is renamed Lark Rise, Flora calls herself Laura and Fringford, the nearby village where 14-year-old Laura is apprenticed to the postmistress, is known as Candleford Green. The area is now bounded by American Air Force bases and unpicturesque A roads.

Flora married John Thompson, a young post office clerk, when she was 24; because he despised her reading and writing as a waste of time, she wrote secret, sugared love stories and nature notes and poetry for women's magazines to pay for her children's upbringing. It was not until she was 61 that she began her masterpiece, a child's minutely observed view of the life of the poor in a remote Oxfordshire hamlet during the 1880s and 1890s, when the English countryside was on the brink of inevitable change.



The rise and rise of *Lark Rise*. Top, designer Nicholas Thirkell, who has ways of making you read. Above left, the marketing team and, right, the book itself. Photographs by Suresh Karadia.

"She recorded a world of simple pleasures and pastimes: the children playing dancing games and peg-top, the men working long hours in the fields for 10 shillings a week, and enjoying a sing-song in the pub in the evenings, the women scrubbing, cleaning, cooking, caring for animals and children and managing to make a meal out of a scraping of lard seasoned with sweet rosemary. 'They knew the now-lost secret of being happy on little,'" recalled Mrs Thompson, before her death in 1947.

The *Morning Star*, reviewing the National Theatre's highly successful "promenade" version of *Lark Rise* at the Cottesloe - the audience had to step smartly back as the villagers swept towards them with scythes - saw it differently, as "the harsh reality of rural poverty and the close, supportive but sometimes claustrophobic atmosphere of village life."

Either way, Flora is in tune with our current collective nostalgia for rural simplicity, the romantic evocation in memoirs and reprints and television serials and supermarkets of a bygone era when Mrs Bridges knew her place, every bedroom was jammed in Laura Ashley cotton, and jam pots were topped with red and white checked cambric. Her philosophy, embodying such back-stiffening maxims as "Pay your way and fear nobody" and "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well", is the very stuff of those Victorian values so admired by Mrs Thatcher.

Ever since Rowena Stott came upon her great-aunt Edith's diary and

Michael Joseph published it in a faithful facsimile as *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, the publishing world has been searching for an equally satisfactory money-maker. It was published in 1977, has sold more than 2½ million copies in hardback, been translated into 13 different languages and appeared on the best-seller list in every country it has been printed, the most bought and least read book of our time. Just over a year ago, fashion consultant Nigel French, and his assistant, Pauline Deppé, bought the merchandising rights of *Country Diary* and, after just one full year of licensing and trading, Edith Holden's poppies and cornflowers are ablaze on more than three hundred items, from 32p postcards to £3,000 kitchens - even the Japanese have made her English country-garden flowers look wanly oriental on a tea service - and the 30 licensees have achieved £28m in retail sales.

Since a merchandising company normally takes between 5 and 10 per cent of the profit of everything sold and as the publisher and the author's estate (or whoever holds the rights to the book) stand to get around 50 per cent of that, you can see why publishing houses have been urging their editors to clear the attics and seek out granny's old flower paintings. Over at Century, a new house started 18 months ago by Anthony Cheetham and a small breakaway group from Macdonalds, they have been on the treasure hunt, too, and come up with six plastic bags full of a meticulously detailed diary of a Victorian journey up the

Nile as well as some fine granny paintings from a grand house in Gloucestershire. Nevertheless, Anthony Cheetham thought it might be cleverer to approach the problem from the opposite direction: to get the best text possible and then illustrate it. And *Lark Rise* is, as he says, one of the best books ever written about childhood.

He passed the project over to Julian Shuckburgh of Shuckburgh Reynolds, one of the small packaging houses which specialize in producing the sort of lavishly-illustrated books publishers can no longer cope with themselves, without a large, skilled staff. Shuckburgh, brought up in Oxfordshire and bred on Flora Thompson, jumped at the idea. "I saw at once how we could do it." He cut the 200,000 or so words in the book back to 90,000, leaving most of Flora's childhood intact - "It scared me to death to do it" - and called in designer Nicholas Thirkell who, in turn, brought in picture researcher Jenny de Gex. She hunted out old photographs, a superb collection of Victorian paintings (15,000 portfolios at £9.95 each, containing a set of these paintings used as illustrations in the book, have already sold out) and, toughest of all, managed to gather flowers in mid-winter for the pressed flowers that decorate each page of the book.

While it's easy enough to see how Edith Holden's flora can be printed on sheets and cups and such, *Lark Rise to Candleford* is a book of words rather than a diary of pictures, so how do you cash in on the description of the lives of simple people before their traditions

were swept away by the machine age? How do you commercialize an era?

The answer is in the presentation. "My brief was a difficult but exciting one," says Nicholas Thirkell. "It was 'create another *Country Diary* best-seller'. Usually a publisher says: 'Oh, we can only afford two-colour and we'll be doing a small run to start with...' but here I was invited to go for broke."

He chose the tactile appeal of old-fashioned cloth for the cover, made the inside look a little like a cottage's scrapbook and, trying to think of an idea that symbolized the countryside and had a good graphic look for the bookshops, came up with the countryman's red and white polka-dot scarf. "I put the whole thing together in about six weeks and it was an absolute labour of love."

The finished book is a visual treat and, looking at it, one might almost say, as indeed the *Lark Rise* Merchandise Company brochure does: "What could be more natural than that this masterpiece should form the centrepiece of an extensive range of quality products?"

Debenhams will launch *Lark Rise* in July, giving them a two-month lead on other retailers. Manufacturers are queuing up for the privilege of recreating furniture in harmony with the stone and thatch of Mrs Thompson's humble cottage, of making wholesome smocks in simple calico and drill, of preparing herbal cosmetics in the correctly "natural" way and turning out cakes and preserves to look and taste as though the villagers of *Lark Rise* had been up all night baking them. Debenhams are excited by the project in the second half of 1984 they estimate the promotion should generate between £3m and £4m of turnover.

The first *Lark Rise* products will be unveiled at the Birmingham Gifts Fair in February and plans are well advanced for the US market.

This is only the beginning of the *Lark Rise* nostalgia industry. Next year Anthony Cheetham will be bringing out a series of children's books - followed by a range of dolls - in which plucky little Laura surmounts all sorts of difficulties. "There were times when I thought, 'Oh, no, we can't do that,'" he says, "but then I decided we mustn't start treating *Lark Rise* with too much reverence..."

"Although she was a poor child I hope she can be made into a lovable doll," Desmond Preston says.

The money side is complicated. Oxford University Press, Flora Thompson's original publishers, who hold the rights (Century have bought the abridged illustrated rights only), get 50p of every book sold this year and a percentage increase next. They also get a small proportion of the merchandise profits (some of which they pass on to Flora Thompson's only surviving relative, a grand-daughter in Australia) and the right to veto anything of which they disapprove, from a biscuit tin to a bedspread. The *Lark Rise* Merchandise Company, who do all the work of exploiting the book, get 50 per cent of the merchandising royalties and Oxford University Press, Century, Shuckburgh Reynolds, and Nicholas Thirkell split the rest.

The same team of Cheetham, Shuckburgh, Thirkell and de Gex are now at work on a companion volume to *The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford*. It is *The Illustrated Cider with Rosie*, so anyone who doesn't care to emulate the humble world of a poor Victorian hamlet should wait for a year or so when a mood may be created for living rather more prosperously, like Laurie Lee did a century later, in his picturesque Cotswolds valley.

moreover...
Miles Kingston

How to be an oracle

One of the hazards of the festive season is finding yourself talking to someone you don't like about something you can't understand - Uncle Harry, for instance, or electronics, or the America's Cup. What you need is a short swift argument that will either stop the conversation stone dead, divert it entirely, or convince the other side you are a genius. Or a lunatic.

Here are a few handy notions to cut out and memorize, listed by subject.

The Greenham Common Peace Women

"Of course, Ronald Reagan thinks that all peace movements are a help to be enemy, so he has decided to discredit them. And the way he's done this is to send a peace-keeping force to the Lebanon which does nothing but bomb and shell people. See what I mean? Sooner or later people will start associating the word 'peace' with destruction and murder, as advertised by US Marines, and the Greenham Common Peace Women will be discredited. Maybe they will even be shelled. Unless they've already got their own weapons. Do you think the Greenham Common Peace Women are developing their own independent deterrent?"

The Booker Prize

"I heard it from a friend who knows one of the judges very well that this year, and every year for all I know, they deliberately chose the book they hated most. Yes, sounds odd, but apparently the idea is that they get fed up reading all those novels day in, day out, and they think it's very unfair that they should be the only ones to suffer. So what they do is pick out one novel that they found particularly tiresome and give it the prize, so that everyone else rushes out and buys it and goes through the same torture. Yes, apparently the one they really liked best never even got on the short list. Yes."

"The Day After"

"No, I didn't actually see the film. I don't like old horror movies. Nor do I have this American taste of horrifying yourself. The Americans absolutely adore being scared, you know - that's why Soviet Russia is such a godsend. But they also have Scars of the Year, a new flavour of scare, like herpes one year, AIDS the next, and the destruction of Kansas the next. Well, apparently the Russians have noticed this and they're now working on a new scare which is really going to scare the Americans. It's nuclear herpes. That's right. When the bomb finally goes off, it will give the Americans cold sores and ruin their sex lives."

Computers

"Apparently this guy in a Scottish university did a survey on his home computer. He wanted to find out whether anyone, anywhere in Britain, had found a really valid and useful function for his home computer. You know how you read these brochures called *The Million Things You Can Do With Your Home Computer*, but the only ones they ever mention are playing games and listing phone numbers? Well, this guy in Scotland was very worried that home computers would become the skateboards of the future - Every Home Has One In The Attic - so he was very anxious to discover the valid uses now, so that he could publicize them. So anyway he got all his data together and fed it into the computer, then asked it the vital question: 'Are there any useful functions for home computers?' The only example it could find was some nut in Scotland doing a survey on the uses of home computers."

The NGA

"Has it ever occurred to you that papers don't appear on big holidays, but this doesn't give newspaper workers the day off, because they're working on the next day's paper? The only day that newspaper workers get off is the day before a holiday. Well, they're fed up with this. They want a public holiday same as anyone. That's what this NGA trouble is all about, apparently. Yes. This chap told me. He'd read Harold Evans's book."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 229)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

- ACROSS: 1 Livestock feed (6) 2 Coward (4) 3 Luxurious life (5,4) 4 Idle talk (6) 5 Keenness (3) 6 Underwear (8) 7 Longest river (4) 8 Deserter (8) 9 12 Adult males (3) 10 Column base (6) 11 Emergence (6) 12 Type of rag (3) 13 Arabic counting system (8) 14 Glacier fissure (8) 15 Cut short (4) 16 Killed in battle (6) 17 Roof window (6)
- DOWN: 1 Coward (4) 2 Luxurious life (5,4) 3 Keenness (3) 4 Underwear (8) 5 Difficult journey (4) 6 Exclusive (5) 7 Additional (5) 8 Acknowledgement (5) 9 Powerful whirlpool (9) 10 Primitives (4) 11 Destiny (5) 12 Antibody (5) 13 Mountain nymph (5) 14 Wicked (4) 15 Good (4)

SOLUTION TO No 228

- ACROSS: 1 Banzi 5 Doff 8 Tramp 9 Tumbler 11 Delusion 13 Fain 15 Telepathy 18 Ripe 19 Schnapps 22 Macramé 23 Loose 24 Ally 25 Elbow
- DOWN: 2 Avall 3 Zip 4 Introspective 5 Dumb 6 Fallacy 7 Study 10 Rind 12 Silk 14 Shun 15 Typist 16 Dram 17 Ashen 20 Probe 21 Wary 23 Lit

Duncan Fallowell

Bad taste and good timing

Liquid Sky, the latest international hit movie in the weirdness category, is about aliens from outer space who attach themselves to the bisexual world of New York's New Wave fashion/heroine set. But the dominant performance is the baleful, glittering presence of New York as a physical structure, almost as a breathing electronic organism. Manhattan has never looked creepier, or more majestic. The film is also very funny, full of sick humour, explosions of obscenity, video fun and dazzling sleaze.

"I wanted some Brechtian quality of detachment," says Slava Tsukerman, the director, talking in a crowded pub in Waterloo, surrounded by green spiky hair and the constant crunch of black leather. His own hair is rather odd, long ringlets flowing out of the neck and over his mackintosh. He is given to mirth generally which is just as well since he is a Russian Jew, born in Moscow in 1939, who arrived in New York in 1976 with his Russian wife.

These New Wave people I use are already extreme people who make a theatre of life," he says, "so when you film them it's like double theatre. My feeling is the more ambiguous the film, the better - including the comedy." His wife is in it too. She plays a fashion writer with cold, lesbian-style chic.

So what is Russian humour like? "That's a good question. The British tradition of dry black humour is very like Russian humour. But Russians get

very sad. It's a national characteristic."

Liquid Sky, with its oriental sense of colour and display, is a celebration of his own freedom: "I find decadence very good for showing the problems of society." It is also his first feature in the West, and by some fluke the first feature ever made by a Russian émigré in the US. Eisenstein tried and failed. Where did the money come from?

"A real-estate developer in Pennsylvania. Surprisingly easy, it turns out. Like my leaving Russia - for the visa I wait only one and a half months. It was good timing. Nixon's visit or something. Of course the moment you apply for the visa you are outlawed so you have to get it or your life is finished. I leave Russia for Israel on April 15, 1973 - *Liquid Sky* opened in the United States on April 15, 1983. Another piece of synchronicity: my Russian film career began with 20-minute shorts. *I Believe in Spring*, which won a prize at the Montreal Festival in 1962, although the authorities didn't tell me, I eventually read it somewhere in a magazine, and my American career begins with the prize for originality at Montreal 1982."

Did he train as a filmmaker in Russia? "No, as a construction engineer." Then he registered as an amateur filmmaker, an official position since you cannot buy raw film in Russian shops, and began making science documentaries. "It's better now than in Stalin's times. In the last year of his life, 1953, only



Slava Tsukerman

two films were made in Russia because Stalin was cutting them himself and if he didn't like it you were killed. But comparing it to Khrushchev's revolution, which was that short spring I once believed in, 1957-61, it's worse now."

But surely Tarkovsky, for example, can work abroad now. "Yes, this is new. When I left it was impossible to imagine that any director with a Russian passport could make a film outside Russia. Now two have done it - Tarkovsky and Konchalovsky. But the most talented Russian filmmaker, Paradjanov, who made *The Colour of Pomegranates* - he's only just out of prison."

Does he think we have a good picture of life in Russia? "I had breakfast this morning with some young people and one of them said he thought the American press was just as controlled by the government as the Russian press. So the first thing I have to explain is that there is no press in Russia, just government clerks releasing certain

things. But nobody believes propaganda any more in Russia, nobody believes in this perfect future society."

"But propaganda can still be powerful even when you don't believe it. For example, I expected very much to be homesick. This is one of my big points. If you read books about Rachmaninov or Stravinsky, they say they suffered tremendously abroad from homesickness and never created anything after they left Russia. I knew this was propaganda, but still I was frightened, sitting in a small restaurant in Moscow a couple of days before I left, feeling really terrible like it's the last time I can ever hear Russian conversation. But in New York there are almost as many Russian restaurants as in Moscow."

Would he like to say something about life in Moscow? "The only place you have crowds of people discussing modern poetry all through the night is Moscow." This appears to illustrate the principle that intellectual activity increases with physical repression. "Exactly. They talk because they cannot do anything. If you do anything you go to prison."

Presumably *Liquid Sky* cannot be shown in Russia? "Oh, never. They are repressed about everything, including sex. All communist societies are very repressed sexually."

Liquid Sky is currently showing in London at the ICA Cinema and the Classic, Chelsea.

WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Exploiting sadness

With Christmas nearly upon us, the senses are assailed by a rash of posters and appeals for help for the poor and needy. Each pathetic image jostles for priority. But is the cause sometimes damaged as much by the distorted stereotype as it is helped by the money raised?

The Down's Children's Association knows well the dilemma of whether or not to exploit the pathetic in trying to pluck money from the heart strings. As an organization representing parents, professionals and Down's people themselves, the advertising men's advice has been questioned. But it is a tragedy that as hard as we struggle to present these children positively, picturing them in loving families or carrying on normal, everyday activities, others use them in lonely or helpless poses to raise money. The reason is clear. Down's children can be appealing and attractive, but at the same time are instantly recognizable by their "mongol" features. Sadly, with Down's Syndrome the commonest form of mental handicap, they have come to epitomise all mental handicap. But this is to forget that while some Down's children are indeed profoundly handicapped, the majority are not, and some have abilities in the near normal range.

None of this is conveyed in one of the award winning posters from the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. A pretty Down's girl stares out mournfully over the legend "Twenty children born on Christmas Day will always have a cross to bear". So successful was this that another poster used the same little girl accompanied by her mother. This time little Nina is smiling but the message is again negative, referring to her appearance in *Crossroads*: "You can switch off Nina's problems. Her mother can't." We must however, commend Central Television's original decision, at the behest of Mencap, to write a mentally handicapped person into a peak-time soap opera in an effort to reduce prejudice and ignorance. Inevitably a Down's child was chosen. However, the script-writer, Arthur Schmidt, admits that Nina is capable of doing a lot more than was shown on the screen.

It is not only the money-seekers who use the face of Down's Syndrome. The DHSS took full-page colour advertisements to advertise for mental nurses. A nurse with a saintly expression has a young Down's person clutched adoringly to each bosom: "You have to be someone special to get this kind of welcome at work". Take this and the Mencap posters together and as a by-product you might get the message: "It's hell at home but bliss in an institution."

Clearly this runs counter to the policies of both organizations. Nowadays the majority of Down's children are loved and cherished by their own families, who are constantly surprised by their abilities, defying traditional medical opinion that their prospects are those of a cabbage.

Down's families don't mind of advertising the need for help for the mentally handicapped, but let them also be the leaders of a new era of positive understanding.

Maggie Emslie

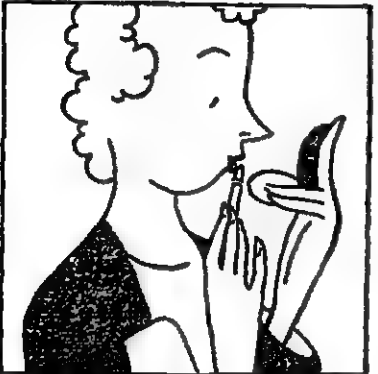
The author is Director of the Down's Children's Association



Advertising a wrong image?

Because Sophie couldn't get back from work in time, I was asked to do Rachel's hair for her first ball. She came upstairs in her dressing gown and sat at the cluttered desk I use as a dressing table. Could I make it look... well, different, she said, pushing at the thick corn-coloured bob. Scarlett had come to help in the way only younger sisters can, standing tremendously close to, and sometimes between, us both, and keeping up a steady flow of soothing chatter.

I twiddle away with heated rollers, hair driers, water sprays and round brushes. "How is it going to look?" asked Scarlett, rattling a can of spray-on mousse vigorously. "I don't know," I reply, truthfully, as the rollers come out and the backcombing begins. Rachel has brought up some blue and black ribbons to match her dress: we twist and tie them through her curls and fix it all with quantities of hair spray.



"I'm supposed to be there at seven," she says politely, her eyes on the clock which shows 6.43pm. Blue mascara, just a touch, lavender eye shadow and some pink lipstick. I smudge the mascara. "You've smudged it," breathes Scarlett, an inch away from the offending mark.



Quick smear of cleansing lotion, a final tweak here and pluck there. "If I fail soufflé pour c'est belle!" I say. "She looks like Shirley Temple," mutters Scarlett and then, as the thunderclouds form "... but I like Shirley Temple".

Rachel races downstairs to put on her dress and shoes, and gallops back up to show the final result. She is a real in-betweening blonde striped taffeta, blue spotted stockings, pale skin and clouds of gold curls. Rachel is transformed into a rare beauty. As she patters off to the car, we lean on the banisters and sigh and smile and shake our heads. I can remember the day she was born. Scarlett will be next, I suppose, if we can only pin her down. The trading at Spitalfields Market is nearly over when we arrive, stiff-eyed and yawning at 7 am. Our breath hangs in the air as we stamp our feet on the frosty cobblestones: through the slippery stack of Christmas trees we see the small lights glimmering at the different stalls. Sam Levy leads us round, introducing us to the bosses. Would they be kind enough to send occasional packages of fruit and vegetables to the Refuge? To a man they agree, these generous giants of the market place.

We step gingerly round nets of sprouts and crates of avocados, stacks of green pineapples waiting to ripen, potatoes and onions, boxes of leeks and tangerines all fresh and gleaming and appetizing. It is nearly nine and high time for

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Bringing on the dancing curls



"This is my lunch" says a grinning lad, sitting on a crate of celery, munching a roll: he has been up since 2.30 am. We adjourn to a special pub where Sam gives us some traditional refreshment: toasted cheese sandwiches and black coffee with a sensible measure of whisky therein. By the time we get home, we are warm and sleepy and not fit for anything much but smiling.

A rather close friend of mine opened up a packet of dry roasted peanuts in a tin foil pack. "Good Lord," he said, sniffing and reeling round the kitchen. "Greugh." I sniffed too. "Faugh." Waiting out from the silver-slit came a fearsome aroma, a revenge of which any butler would be proud. The nuts rattled obediently into a dish and were extremely good: to keep them tasting so delicious it seems they must be

stored in a gas to shame a sink bomb. How awful if someone were to open them behind a frightful bore as a party and tip-off, leaving him to explain away the deadly whiff.

I couldn't get a taxi so I reluctantly drove my car to the Lichfield lunch. Having arrived, the only course of action was to leave the machine safely but illegally parked. Inside the car, all was meeting and eating and laughter, outside it was the Denver float for the spivmobile. The saga involved buses and underground trains, long echoing subways, snarl busters and the inflated King Kong and a duration of several hours.

The police couldn't have been kinder: the fact remains that the car chugging rigidly to her unlawful perch for half a day, what with one thing and another, which seems to me to be a strange way to sort out traffic congestion.

I found a packet of dried peas in the larder which had been there for 15 years. Being my mother's daughter, I incorporated them into a vegetable soup I was making. The instructions were complicated: "Empty peas into a bowl... submerge in boiling water... insert two tablets into muslin bag and stir until dissolved... leave overnight - stir..." and so on. A day later, I had some large chabby grey peas ready to cook.

Into the pot they went with all the other ingredients and on to a low flame: after an hour, I pecked under

the lid and saw that they had shed their skins, which now covered the surface of the soup completely like ghostly transparent puffs. I also have a tin of drinking chocolate which is marked 2s. 1d. I made some the other night which we drank in silence. I love thrift.



In the city square in Leeds the Black Prince, bracing himself in his stirrups and reigning in his stamping warhorse, points with approval at the Christmas tree, garlanded with lights and tinsel. He reminds me of the statues in Vienna: crowding along the roofs of the palaces, swinging their legs, pointing, advising, leaning over doors and staggering under the weight of buildings. Sometimes they fight furiously at street corners, sometimes stroll with arms on each other's shoulders or play violins.

In the gardens of the Schonbrunn Palace, a woman bathes her tiny baby in a circular pool. In the slanting winter sunlight, the icicles harden on her bare arms and the child wriggles in the freezing black water. Statues made nowadays are rather plonking, chaps just standing about; the exception is Jan Smuts, who comes into his own in the winter weather when he skates solemnly round Parliament Square.

FIRST PERSON

David Hunt

I don't like being taken for a ride

In these days of self-help, independence and isolation, disabled people are doing more and more for themselves with the help of "aids". An aid is, basically, something that reaches parts other devices cannot reach. This can mean anything from elasticated laces for converting your shoes into slip-ons to a car with drive-on access for a wheelchair.

At the recent Naides exhibition in London, they were all there - wheelchairs, walking frames, electronic sensors, kitchen gadgets, even British Telecom. There were 20 different ways of getting in or out of the bath and on or off the lavatory, electric beds bending and flexing before your very eyes, and an arrangement of monolithic high-rise chairs that looked like furniture from a giant's living room.

In the busy hustle of social workers, sales reps and occupational therapists it was still possible to spot the disabled, not especially by their handicaps. We were the ones clustered around the stands like children outside a sweetshop.

I would have liked one of the easy-to-operate, eye-level ovens on display. I have not used my own gas-cooker oven for more than a year now as it is too awkward to bend down to. However, I cannot afford the £500 needed to buy the special one. Like most disabled people, I am fairly hard-up.

Should I approach my local authority? Under the law, it is their responsibility to provide aids. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, however, only obliges them; it doesn't force them. I am almost certain that it is a simple lid-opener or kettle-holder, but anything costly and there will have to be assessment and discussion in high places.

I do not really blame the local authorities, especially mine, for the situation. They have the unenviable task of deciding between serious wants and great needs on an ever-diminishing budget. There is, though, one area of the aids business in which I would dearly like to see a big shake-up. Ask any disabled person what he or she wants most and nine times out of ten the answer will be mobility.

In my own bid for freedom, I decided to get a "power chair".

These are not supplied by any outside agency, but I knew I could buy one on hire-purchase by using my precious social security mobility allowance through a scheme called Mobility. I chose a mid-range model that is basically a box. In 1 I proceed along the pavement at up to 4mph, very bumpily and with no weather protection. If I feel brave enough I will take on a kerb up to 5in high using my "kerb-climbers", and I must be even braver to reverse over a similar kerb, especially on to a busy road. I have no lights, horn or even anything to carry shopping.

Indoors, the walls of my hall bear witness to the lack of controllability caused by front castor wheels. And, when at last I have manoeuvred my chair into the correct position for recharging, I have to grope, almost at floor level with two complicated seven-pin plugs. What will I end up paying for my power chair? No less than £1,500 (plus £20 for insurance). I also inquired about a foam seat-cushion, but they cost £85 so I am making do with a "non-aids" one!

Remember the great campaign by racing driver Graham Hill and Lord Snowdon "over the lethal blue Ministry 'trikes'"? Now we need a champion to tackle the power chair companies. Other people's captive market will go on being exploited. As the sales rep admitted to me discreetly but with brutal candour: "They've got you where they want you, haven't they? You either buy one or stay indoors."

Coping with a telephone torment

Sarah Jane Checkland on the increasing menace of the obscene phone call - and how to combat it

The Englishman's castle is vulnerable in a number of ways, none more so than through that thin line of communication with the outside world, the telephone. It is bad enough just to be interrupted as you wallow in the bath. When the call is from one or other of the two telephone menaces, the salesman or the obscene caller, what a moment it can be.

We are in the midst of an obscene phone call boom. Official complaints to British Telecom from England, Scotland and Wales rose from about 80,000 in 1971 to 180,000 in 1980 (whereupon the comprehensive figures went silent because of BT's devolution). And these are only the ones that are reported: almost everyone I know has suffered a harassing call of some kind or another.

The culprits are often male, the victims female. The callers rate low on the perversion chart, less significant even than the flasher, although their methods can be quite sophisticated. The utilisation on their part and the shock element on yours comes from their advantage of surprise.

One case combined both "commercial" and "obscene" techniques. It began on a seemingly harmless note. Sarah from Fulham had just set up a business taking groups of students on tours abroad. One day she received a call from "a charming, respectable sounding" man who said he had got her number from the classified section of a newspaper. He was under a deadline for some market research, and could she possibly help him out? Sarah agreed and answered his questions. "What size clothes do you take?" he asked, and "I do hope I don't embarrass you, but could you possibly tell me whether your bra fastens at the front or the back?" And so he proceeded towards his pornographic punchline.

An hour later the phone rang again. By this time Sarah had recovered her cool, and was relieved to find herself talking to a prospective deal, considering sending his son Richard on the tour. "He

asked, 'I was really taken in'. When, after hearing the same propositions, Sarah ended the call, it gradually dawned on her that apart from the kicks he had already got, this man had all her vital statistics, her daily habits and her address.

She was terrified. His action was, to her, akin to rape, all the more so as he had exploited her kindness and good manners. He kept on ringing well into the night, leaving a sickening crop of messages on her answering machine.

What should you do in circumstances like this, as the telephone tumbles from your nerveless hand? Sarah rang the police, and a nice young constable came round. He reassured her and recommended various commonsense precautions such as "Don't let any strangers in" and "Put the telephone down if he rings". He also told her that as no real threat had been made, no action could be taken. This sentiment was repeated by a spokesman at Scotland Yard, who said that as far as he was aware, "even obscene phone calls are not against the law".

It took British Telecom's Nuisance Calls information leaflet to get the facts straight. Under Section 49 of the British Telecommunications Act 1981 a person shall be guilty of an offence if he makes by means of a public telecommunications service... a message or other matter which is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character or sends... a message that he knows to be false". The enforcement of this law is in the hands of the police. So far so good. But how can one prove who the offender is?

Some months ago I suffered the snorts and guffaws of a "nuisance caller" on a Saturday night. I rang British Telecom to ask the operator if he could either trace or block these calls. "No, sorry. There is nothing we can do until Monday," was the reply. "Why don't you take the phone off the hook?"

A spokesman said: "It's like poison pen letters and the Post



Office, we are just the carriers... but as a social service we have some obligation to help". The spokesman, courteous in the extreme, would not explain exactly what facilities were available for blocking and tracing "for security reasons". Instead BT recommends that subscribers report their problem to the local customer services manager. When asked whether he is on duty 24 hours a day, their answer is "Well, no".

I rang Plessey, makers of telephone systems, to find out what provisions they can offer. They said that to trace calls even with their latest equipment it will still be necessary to notify the exchange. There would be the opportunity to put the call on "hold", but as soon as you do that the offender would probably ring off.

At present, successful tracing of calls depends on a number of factors. First, there would have to be more than one of you present and you would have to have two phones. One of you must suffer the not-so-sweet nothings coming down the

line while the other rings. The exchange for help. It might take up to 20 minutes, and the culprit's line would only be successfully traced if he or she was on the same exchange.

Henry Scope, a lawyer working in Gracechurch Street, London conducted this experiment some months ago with that rare bird, the female obscene phone caller. She was not on the same exchange, and therefore has not been traced.

I turned for advice to two groups who make unhappiness and unsolicited phone calls their business. Jean Bart at the Samaritans says: "Most who ring are scared stiff of women. Women don't understand this and get very frightened. Some of the people who ring us with sexual calls are very helpless".

The method of dealing with dirty callers recommended by the British Telecom leaflet is probably the most sensible. "Hang up gently, showing no emotion. Many such callers hope for an emotional reaction and long conversations as they would like

nothing better than an exchange of insults. Do not give the caller the satisfaction: simply hang up".

Telephone marketing, or "junk selling" as it is called in the United States, is nothing like as sinister as the obscene call, and nothing like as prevalent. In a recent survey by the Department of Fair Trading, it was discovered that out of a cross-section of 1,500 telephone owners, only 21 per cent had ever received such calls.

Although the telephone salesman may be insidious or forceful, he can only be categorized as an irritation rather than a threat. He is trying to get at your money rather than at you, and judging by some of his methods (like shouting "Sale! Sale! Sale!" at the relevant moment), he will "burn himself out" within a matter of months. Most of his calls are business to business, and thus do not intrude into the home.

The survey found that at least half the telephone owners interviewed wanted unsolicited calls to be banned by law (as in Denmark and West Germany). Banning, however, would contradict Britain's legal position regarding privacy, namely that there is no right to privacy and that therefore there can be no invasion of privacy. The survey goes on to show that after having received calls of this kind, only 42 per cent still wanted the ban.

To protect the consumer, the Department of Fair Trading has drawn up a gentlemanly set of guidelines for the salesman. They include the following: the purpose of the call should be made clear at the outset; companies should make efforts to remove a name from a contact list if requested; there should be a cooling-off period during which the consumer can cancel an agreement. This is echoed in a list compiled by the British Direct Marketing Association.

In the case of unsolicited advertisements through the letterbox, the Department of Fair Trading has taken more specific steps. Apply to NPS Freepost 22, London E1 7E1 for an application form, and you can then specify exactly what sorts of advertising material you do and do not want.

Make the most of goodies

150 ml (1/4 pint) water
A little oil

Peel the fruit carefully without breaking the skin of each segment. Remove any pith and arrange the segments on a wire drying-rack with a little space between each piece. Leave in a warm, airy place for an hour or so - allowing the fruit to dry a little helps the caramel to stick to it.

Put the sugar and water in a heavy-based pan and heat slowly until the sugar has dissolved completely. Raise the heat and cook the syrup without stirring until it is a pale golden colour. Once the sugar turns to caramel it darkens very quickly and develops a bitter taste, so watch it carefully.

Have ready a bowl of hot water that the pan of caramel can stand in. And as soon as the caramel is ready, take the pan off the heat and stand it in the water. This will stop it cooking further and keep it liquid.

Using tongs or a couple of forks (sugar tongs work well) pick up the segments one at a time without piercing the skin and dip into the caramel. Set each coated segment on to a well-oiled plate or tray and

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

leave to cool. The sugar coating will be set hard.

Semg ginger in thick syrup tastes hot and mellow in the same breath. Addicts eat it on its own or with cream or ice cream, an overpoweringly rich combination for everyone else. But drained of its syrup and finely chopped, a little stem ginger makes a wonderful filling for brandy snaps. It is also excellent in the topping for this unusually-flavoured apple crumble. The ground coriander adds another warm, aromatic taste.

Apple and ginger crumble
Serves four

450 g (1 lb) peeled and sliced cooking apples
1 teaspoon ground coriander
55 g (2 oz) demerara sugar
For the crumble
110 g (4 oz) wholemeal flour

55 g (2oz) butter
55 g (2 oz) demerara sugar
55 g (2 oz) stem ginger, chopped
1 teaspoon ground coriander

Put the apples in an oven-proof dish. Mix the sugar and ground coriander and sprinkle the mixture over the fruit. Sift the flour into a bowl and add the butter cut in dice. Using your fingertips, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, ginger and ground coriander.

Spoon this topping over the apples and bake the crumble in a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 3) for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the apples are cooked and the topping is lightly browned. The exact time will vary with the size of the dish.

A hazelnut cheesecake is a versatile standby for Christmas entertaining. It freezes well and can be served as cake or pudding. A word of warning though. Don't be tempted to make it with very low-fat soft white cheese; the result will be wet and grainy.

Hazelnut cheesecake
Serves 10 to 12

55g (2oz) butter
2 tablespoons demerara sugar
225g (8oz) digestive biscuit crumbs
225g (8oz) shelled hazelnuts
900g (2lb) cream cheese (Philadelphia is fine)
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
225g (8oz) soft brown or caster sugar

4 large eggs
55g (2oz) chocolate, coarsely grated (optional)

Choose a deep-sided, 20cm (8in) diameter cake tin with a loose bottom, and butter it well. If the tin has a fixed base, line it with baking parchment or greaseproof paper. Melt the remaining butter and mix it with the sugar and biscuit crumbs. Spread the mixture over the base of the prepared tin and spread it flat.

Spread the nuts on a shallow tray and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/320°F, gas mark 3) for 10 to 15 minutes. Allow them to cool, then rub off the skins and grind the nuts finely. A coffee grinder will do this.

Put the cream cheese into a large bowl and beat until smooth. Beat in the vanilla, sugar, eggs and ground nuts. Four the mixture into the tin and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/320°F, gas mark 3) for about 1 1/2 hours.

The cheesecake will puff up in the oven and when ready it is just firm and lightly browned. It will sink as it cools. Cool the cheesecake in its tin and chill it for 12 hours before running a knife round the edge and turning it out. Decorate the sides with coarsely-grated chocolate pressed on to the cake.

Tomorrow
Spectrum: Profile
of Roald Dahl

Anyone who's too mean to serve Smirnoff will realise just how wasteful fairy lights are.



CUT OUT AND AFFIX TO FAIRY LIGHTS PLUG



IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Super market.

THE TIMES DIARY

Burning ambition

In April, at Wimbledon magistrates court, Dr Brian Davies was fined £1,000 with £200 costs for illegally receiving social security benefits amounting to £11,470.48. Dr Davies, a metallurgist, said: "I did it to expose inefficiencies in the DHSS", and personally reported the fraud to Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary. Now he wants to know why the DHSS seems reluctant to sue for the return of the money. Dr Davies has told Fowler and the DPP that if he is

Action makes the heart grow stronger

denied his "day in court", he will burn down one of the department's buildings. In February, the same Dr Davies threatened to burn down five branches of the Midland Bank but was found not guilty under the terms of the Criminal Damage Act. Most fittingly, he is the male model in a health education council poster which carries the slogan, "Action makes the heart grow stronger."

Crystal clear

What used to be the London Council on Alcoholism yesterday took on a name rather harder to swallow: the Greater London Alcohol Advisory Service, which can be neatly abbreviated to GLAAS. The council's annual report is not very cheery reading, and refers at one point to a time "when our spirits and finances were particularly low".

Weighting game

Relations about the earnings powers of video-tape editors at London Weekend Television reminds me of a joke told by Granada's Gus Macdonald at this year's Edinburgh International Television Festival: What's the difference between an Arab oil sheik and a videotape editor at LWT? Answer: Arab oil sheiks don't get London weighting.

False witness

Last week's QED programme on BBC1 showed a specially staged mugging scene which lasted 14 seconds. Viewers then saw an identity parade of nine men and were asked to telephone the programme to say whether they recognized the mugger. Of more than 1,800 people who rang, 1,300 chose the wrong man, making the odds two to one against an accurate identification. Tonight's QED programme asks what makes witnesses so unreliable.

BARRY FANTONI



"Your jokes are great, but you'll have to improve your handicap"

Corps Domestique

Gin slings and ironed newspapers brought out to the verandah by silently gliding houseboys are no part of today's diplomatic life. Foreign office memorandum on diplomats' accommodation states: "At most posts nowadays the cost of extra servants is the biggest item, so we must be able to extract full value when we have to pay them." The design of diplomats' housing would also take into account "environmental considerations, the need to hold down domestic fuel consumption and the gradual disappearance of servants, leaving officers and their wives to cope with more of the domestic chores."

● Readers planning flying Christmas visits to friends and relations abroad should take Sellotape, ribbon and wrapping paper. The British Airports Authority warns that gifts already wrapped "may have to be opened" and advises passengers to wrap on arrival.

Bible thumping

The Authorized Version of the Bible, otherwise known as the King James Version, is being promoted for the first time by its four publishers, the Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Collins and Eyre and Spottiswoode. The purpose of next year's £12,000 campaign is to bring "this most poetic version of the Bible to the attention of the public," says Alec Watson of Collins. He will certainly have support from Julian Critchley, who denigrated the New English Bible in an article entitled My Thirteen Worst Books, in this week's Sunday Times. He wrote: "It reduces to banality what was not only treasured and venerable but has become part of the English mind."

PHS

Your turn to back off, Mr King

by John Lyons

The General Council's decision last week in refusing to commit the trade union movement to support unions openly defying the law was a turning point for the TUC. There never has been any doubt that the overwhelming majority of those affiliated to the TUC would not support actions designed to undermine the supremacy of Parliament and the law.

Some union leaders say they will organize the overthrow of that decision at next year's Trades Union Congress. It remains to be seen if they will succeed. If they do I think there will be a real, not imaginary, danger of the TUC splitting irretrievably.

However, that decision is for the future. What is certain is that last week's decision has changed the climate in which the TUC operates. It has done so to the advantage of the TUC, pulling it back in the main stream of British political life.

As a consequence the pressure is now on the Government to abandon its own ideological preconceptions about trades unions and demonstrate its good faith in its expressed desire for a genuine dialogue with the Congress.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary can start the process by showing a willingness to consider serious amendments to the Trade Union Bill. There is, of course, the question of the political levy but that is already under discussion between Mr King and the TUC. However, other equally important issues have not been discussed. Part One of the Bill contains the provision that union's principal executive committees must be elected by direct postal ballot of the entire membership.

Apart from the fact that this would create havoc in many unions with perfectly good arrangements of their own, it suffers from three principal defects.

First, it is a dangerous precedent for the Government to set about determining by law how the internal affairs of voluntary associations should be organized. Second, in most unions the principal executive committees are responsible to periodic conferences and can be dismissed by them. When that is no longer the case, the Government's measure will leave the membership of a union without any formal means of enforcing a change in its committee's policies.

Third, the Government is contravening the principles which it set out earlier this year in its own Green Paper, *Democracy in Trade Unions*. Paragraph 18 said: "The Government is conscious that any legislation must take into account the wide variety and complexity of existing electoral arrangements". Later, paragraph 54 said, "The Government's prime aim... is to encourage trade unions... to reform their electoral arrangements so as to become... more democratic and more truly representative of their members' interests". It is not to be expected that the Government will withdraw Part One. But it could conform with its Green Paper principles if it were amended to allow the membership of each union to choose by ballot between its existing election arrangements, and methods

of changing them, and those the Government prefers. That would ensure that the Government's methods would have to be considered but the final decision would be taken by the membership.

There are other amendments the Government should consider. For example, the Bill defines a strike as anything that involves a person breaking his contract of employment or interfering with his performance. Any such acts authorized by a trade union will have to be authorized by ballot. The expression of a workers' grievance by extending the tea break would need a ballot. It is absurd.

Then there is the requirement that any union given authority to take strike action must do so within a month. This could actually worsen disputes: unions will be forced to use their mandate at the end of four weeks when, perhaps, a fifth week of negotiations would avert the need.

Mr King could also take the opportunity to right the manifest injustice of the High Court's decision in the Dimbleby case, a result of which is that an employer can vitiate lawful industrial action simply by registering his company under another name.

But whatever the details, the important point is that last Wednesday's decision was a watershed and the Government should now meet the TUC at least halfway. If it does not do so, then for the first time since 1979 the Government will find itself put on the defensive, politically, in its handling of trade union issues. Much will flow from that.

The author is General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association.

David Watts on the election blow to Japanese-western relations

The bribe that swamped Ron and Yasu

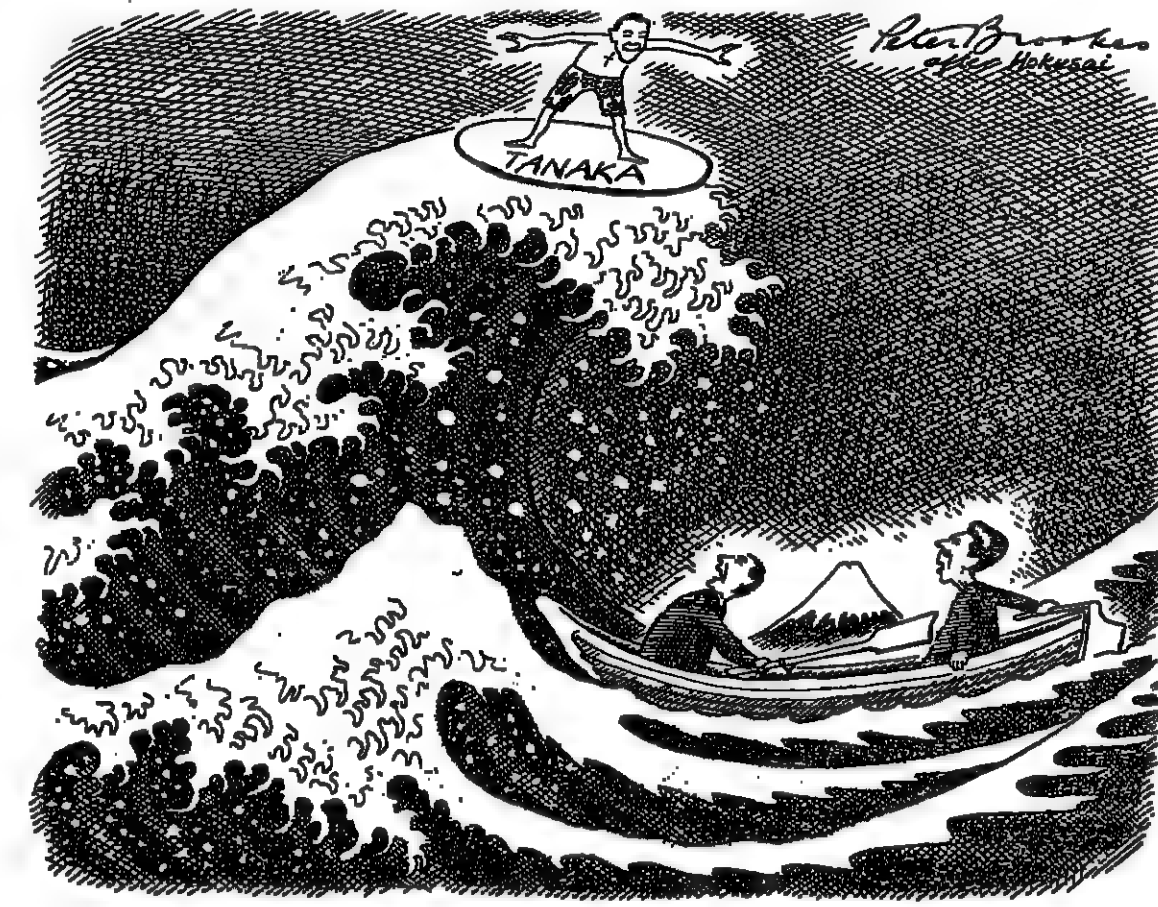
Singapore Only five weeks after President Reagan's visit to Tokyo, hopes of a closer relationship between Japan and the West have been damaged, perhaps irreparably for the foreseeable future, by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's setback at the polls.

The prime minister was forced to call the election in the wake of the conviction of his predecessor, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, for accepting a \$2m bribe from Lockheed. For the West, it could prove one of the most expensive bribes in history.

More than any other postwar prime minister, Mr Nakasone's vision of Japan's role in the world coincides almost exactly with western expectations: a Japan more assertive in foreign and military affairs, more responsive to trade problems and more willing to integrate itself into the western world in the trust sense. No other senior Japanese politician is as pro-western.

During their talks - in which they were soon on "Ron" and "Yasu" terms - Mr Reagan and Mr Nakasone reached a whole series of understandings. The visit was marked by genuine warmth, at least on the international plane. Ironically the understandings were kept under wraps by the Americans for fear that they might jeopardize Mr Nakasone's chances during the elections. In the event, he might have been able to distance some attention away from the damage ethics-in-politics issue which contributed to much of the Liberal Democratic Party's reversal if he had played up his international standing.

With a solid election victory behind him, Mr Nakasone had planned to increase Japanese defence spending and defence cooperation with the US, particularly by undertaking more reconnaissance flights over the Pacific. He had also planned to open up the Japanese



market to greater imports of American beef and citrus fruit. More importantly, he intended to shake up the Japanese capital markets and internationalize the yen to help reduce the disparity between the yen and the dollar, which the US feels is contributing heavily to the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Foreign affairs did not play a significant part in the campaign, but the image of Mr Nakasone as world-class statesman holding his own with Mr Reagan was expected to wash over domestic issues. In the event, factional fighting over the Tanaka issue so divided the LDP that in many cases the party split its own vote by failure to liaise with members of other LDP factions competing in the same constituency. The party squandered its resources by fielding 339 candidates for the 270 seats it hoped to capture.

Even in the best of all possible worlds, what Mr Nakasone had promised Mr Reagan would have been difficult to deliver. But now the

glacial progress towards the liberalization of Japanese markets will become even slower. If Mr Nakasone had made an issue of greater defence spending he might have won a good measure of public support. One of his advisers thinks he might even have got public support for allowing the British carrier *Invincible* into a Japanese port after it was barred from Australia.

There is a growing feeling that he should have tried to capitalize on issues in which he believes strongly: in the event he went on the offensive and allowed the initiative to pass to the opposition.

So, far from being in a position to make good his promises to Mr Reagan, Mr Nakasone now finds himself with a tiny majority fighting for his political survival. Today there is no margin of support left over for the exorbitant foreign policy. Though he is likely to survive the initial hurdle of confirmation as prime minister before an early session of the Diet, even the less controversial issues of domestic

policy will mean that he has to bargain with the opposition to get his government's legislation passed. Issues throughout the next year will move slowly, dogged by compromises. There will scarcely be support for concessions to foreign countries on trade or anything else. "I am very much afraid about the future of the Japanese-American relationship," said a leading Japanese commentator.

One American diplomat said the much-vaunted "agenda for progress" initiated during the Reagan visit would now enter a tricky stage.

Mr Nakasone will most probably be able to muddle along until the next election for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party next November. It is possible that he will be re-elected, but few think this is likely.

The probable outcome will be the accession of a new prime minister who will have to be much more cautious than Mr Nakasone on all issues on which the West has been seeking progress.

After Harrods, a ray of light from Dublin



Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald: united by a shared experience of atrocity

several members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary arraigned on murder charges.

The Darkly killings happened less than three weeks after Dr Fitzgerald had met Mrs Thatcher at Chequers, the first Anglo-Irish summit meeting since relations were frozen at the time of the Falklands conflict. British officials concede that Dr Fitzgerald was remarkably effective at that meeting. He impressed on the Prime Minister his concern about the political growth of Provisional Sinn Féin and the alienation of the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. He argued that the British took neither of these developments sufficiently seriously and did not comprehend the very real threat of the violence spreading to the Republic and even to Britain itself. British sources have since said they believe the Irish Premier did counsel Mrs Thatcher that Northern Ireland was an issue of the most urgent importance.

But there is another reason why Dr Fitzgerald may have impressed Mrs Thatcher. The government he leads is implacably opposed to the Provisionals, whether in the political guise of Sinn Féin or the violent one of the IRA. Since he came to power accusations about being "soft" on the Provos have been directed from Dublin to London rather than the other way round. Irish politicians have been angry that British officials and even ministers in Belfast have been prepared to deal with Provisional Sinn Féin on constituency matters. They suspect that the British see Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, as one of a long line of terrorists stretching from Jomo Kenyatta to Robert Mugabe, with whom they have, in the end, been prepared to talk.

This week the Irish government is likely to be pressing much harder than the British towards finally proscribing Sinn Féin. Even the Fianna Fáil leader, Charles Haughey, usually depicted in Britain as an arch-Republican, has said that he will back the government in any measures it thinks necessary.

What both London and Dublin want in the short term is much

closer cooperation on security, particularly in the border areas. It has long been on the cards that when the New Ireland Forum reports next spring it will include proposals for a joint security force, involving the armies and police forces of the Republic and Britain. Another idea being canvassed is for a joint court of the border could sit together to try terrorist offences.

In the past the problem with such radical security proposals has always been seen to be the political difficulties they would present to both sides. Northern Unionists and many members of the Conservative Party would regard the involvement of the Irish army and police in operations on the northern side of the border as a de facto diminution of Britain's sovereignty in the province. They fear that other political initiatives strengthening Northern Ireland's links with the Republic would inevitably follow. On the Irish side, many politicians who wanted to play the green card could raise the spectre of British soldiers patrolling in border towns like Dundalk. There has also been anxiety about how Irish public opinion might react if their soldiers and policemen were shot by the IRA.

Such objections may carry much less weight now. Irish soldiers and policemen have been killed by Republican gunmen and others could be the killing in the North shows no sign of abating. Families doing their Christmas shopping in London are now at risk. If there is any light it is that, perhaps for the first time, the bloodshed which has its roots in the politics of Northern Ireland seems likely to bring the British and Irish governments closer in seeking a common solution.

Mary Holland

Phillip Whitehead

Reuters: taking too much on trust?

Christmas will be late this year for a select group of lucky newspaper proprietors. They will have to wait a little longer for the public flotation of Reuters, from which some of them expect to make vast windfall profits. The problem with this present is the wrapping, for it was designed to stop Reuters ever becoming anyone's bran tub. The wrapping is the Agreement of Trust, by which the owners of Reuters bound themselves in 1941 to regard their holdings as "in the nature of a trust rather than as an investment". Reverse that proposition, and you understand why expectations will be rising in the spring of 1984, as the glittering present is unwrapped. Because of the large profits earned by its business-information service, Reuters might be worth £1,000m if it were floated as a public company on the stock market.

The owners have seen their companies revalued upwards this year in anticipation of such a bonanza. The two biggest Reuters shareholders, Lord Rothermere's Associated Newspapers and Lord Matthews' Fleet Holdings, each has more than 12 per cent of Reuters. News International has 9 per cent, Reed International 7.9 per cent, and so on down. On a billion-pound float, without strings, Lord Rothermere and Matthews could clear £120m each, Mr Murdoch £90m and Reed International £79m. The latter group is floating off Mirror Group Newspapers, on the buoyancy which comes from its expected share of the Reuters spoils.

This could prove in itself to be a cruel blow to the diversity of a free press in Britain. The Mirror Group papers have, not uncritically, given general support to the Labour opposition. That has sometimes meant a courageous editorial line, against the grain of the tabloid-fed majority opinion of the day. It is hard to see how that line can be held, once Mirror Group Newspapers is floated as a public company, obliged to act in the best interests of its shareholders - whoever they are.

The Opposition has been pretty mute about the Daily Mirror. It should examine the wider issues behind the sale, which will lead it to the reason why it is happening at all: the Reuters bazaar. The issues are the same, whether we are safeguarding the expression of a viewpoint or the integrity of impartial coverage. Both are needed in the diversity of the press; neither can be guaranteed by the impulses and spasms of the money markets. So Parliament should look at the assumptions behind the Reuters sale, and the likely consequences. Reuters says that "a public issue would raise money for the further development of the company, as well as funds for its controlling shareholders". But which aim came first?

The present owners of Reuters have discovered that its Monitor system of international business information has been a tearaway success. Over the past 10 years it has expanded to account for 90 per cent of the business, with accelerating profitability. Last year Reuters paid a dividend, worth in all £2.5m, and allowed a selected handful of senior staff to buy shares. This year the profits are expected to top £50m. So do Reuters' owners see a pressing need to go to the capital market for investment funds, or for easy profits for themselves? Before they are allowed to amend the Agreement of Trust, which their predecessors signed in 1941, might we not

examine the position of trustees like Lord Matthews, who are both proponents of the "flotation" and principal prospective beneficiaries.

The Agreement is an extraordinary document. Its provisions are widely known, thanks to a campaign of filial fervour by Alexander Chancellor in *The Spectator*, who has made a single-handed attempt to finger Lord Matthews and his fellow trustees. The Trust was cobbled together in 1941, after a barrage of parliamentary criticism of the way in which the national proprietors had bought a half interest in Reuters. Samuel Storey, then chairman of Reuters, wanted "a trust which would be representative of national interests and of Reuters spheres of action, and would hold the shares and the income arising therefrom for the maintenance of Reuters as an independent British-owned news agency."

The new owners signed the Agreement among themselves. It was to terminate only on liquidation, on a stock transfer "submitted to and approved by the Lord Chancellor of England," and otherwise 21 years after the death of the last surviving descendant of Queen Victoria alive in 1941. It set out a simple fiction of independence and integrity, and defined the shareholdings as a trust rather than an investment. We are now told that this Trust is bust. It is a mere shareholders' agreement.

The Attorney-General disclaims responsibility for it: no charitable issues are involved. The Lord Chancellor has never heard of it. Lord Matthews need not wait until the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of the Duke of Kent before he cashes in his stake.

Reuters has reacted with pained surprise to such public criticism as there has been. It has denied any intention to hive off the business-information services. But what guarantee have we that once accountable to a new ownership, greedy for pickings, Reuters will not scale down news services, not scale down the quality, which are crucial to the flow of information in the small countries to which they are relayed? With asset-strippers at large in Fleet Street, Reuters journalists have been rightly nervous of their reputation for independence and impartiality. The management has responded as though they were the threat to the integrity of Reuters.

Finally, Parliament should act, pick up Mr Storey's concept of an independent trust set out in 1941. It should be given a rewritten agreement, with guarantees on ownership which keep control within the national and local press institutions of Britain, Australia and New Zealand, the three countries concerned.

And if that makes Warburg despair of putting together a package which can be sold to the financial institutions, will anyone be the poorer, except those who counted their windfall profits too early, and the dangers of what they proposed too late?

The author was Labour MP for Derby, North, 1970-83.

David Walker

The politicians who just don't rate

Pity the fate of junior minister William Waldegrave. He began 1983 at the Department of Education debating the future of universities and colleges, mingling with folk in gowns who spoke his "All Souls" language. He ends it newly dragged from the sea of radioactive waste at Sellafield (one of his responsibilities at Environment) and put in charge of selling the rate-capping bill not only to reluctant councillors, but to a Parliament which even on the whips' optimistic arithmetic is astonishingly restive, and to a public which remains, as usual at the mention of municipal matters, largely indifferent.

When in doubt, it seems, send for a minister to coordinate the Government's message: Lord Whitelaw. Or set up a propaganda unit, as at Environment. Doubt there most certainly is.

In a speech last week we heard Mr Peter Rees, the Treasury Chief Secretary, saying in one breath that the overwhelming body of rate-payers are crying out for the relief offered by the rate-capping plan. In the next, straining to hear their sotto voce protests, he says wistfully: "I hope their case does not go by default."

Meanwhile Mr Patrick Jenkin attempts a media spin in the manner of Mr Michael Heseltine, but succeeds in leaving an impression of half-bakedness. The publication of the bill itself makes things little clearer. The Government's purposes appear confused: capping the rates of 15 councils will not necessarily cure the persistent problem of "overspending".

Mr Jenkin's colleagues give every sign of leaving him dangling in the breeze. When was the last time you heard Sir Keith Joseph say anything about capping rates? He, however, is responsible for the education budget, the largest element in local spending and without doubt the one area from which large cuts must come if rate-capping is to have any significant effect.

While the Government dithers, the well-oiled machine of municipal

protest moves into gear. Hackney may be poor and suffer great cuts, but it can still afford a squad of professional public relations specialists. Grand claims of constitutional propriety come from local government's captive academic bluster, as well they might, for this bill will surely have failed unless within three years the rate of decline in council staffing is accelerating in pace beyond anything seen in the years from 1980-82, when jobs were last being reduced.

Yet for all the din, for all the petitions displayed on library corners, for all the press releases, local government finance will remain an esoteric pursuit. The public has shown that it gets agitated when a school closes; when rates demands really hurt (that has happened only recently to middle-class residents of city areas), when, despite the signs displayed prominently on the side of council dustcarts about gratuities, the dustman still comes knocking on the door to offer seasonal greetings with menaces. But when it comes to civic participation, to caring about what does happen in the town hall, to knowing who pulls the levers to make the municipal system work - count me out.

Take, of all boroughs, Camden: regularly in the news, with an excellent local paper, glamorous councillors. Here, surely, the people should know what is being done and spent in their name.

How many people, MORI asked recently, know the name of a single councillor who represents them? Answer: one person in five. How many even know which ward they live in? Answer: 23 per cent.

In other words, the foundations of the local government system as a working model of democracy are shaky. Rate-capping raises important issues of practice and principle, but beware "spokesmen" and ministers who claim to be speaking for a public that, until now, has basked in its silent ignorance of rates, of caps and who runs the town hall in its name.



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PARISH PUMP IMPERIALISM

The Rates Bill is misnamed. Of course it would suit ministers to appear as white knights saving the householders of Barnsbury and the factory owners of South Yorkshire from councillors who have sadly abused the tax weapon given them by the traditional system of property rating. But unless the Government has given itself over to quixotry, its ambitions must surely be larger. The Government is relying on this Bill to secure two objectives that have consistently eluded it: the control and reduction of local spending. Rates, let it not be forgotten, are only one element in the process of council spending: they are by no means an infallible guide to town hall excess. It is not rate levies but aggregate spending that, within no more than two years, will prove this contested piece of new law.

The theory of "rate capping" is deceptively simple. Pin the excess of spending, the unmanageability of the municipal system on the few easily-named Labour city councils: control their spending; a general problem is solved as other councils take heed. Yesterday's briefings made much of "shadow effects" and "fringe areas" by which councils outside the selective scheme suddenly would see reason. Yet here is where the Government's argument in the Bill runs into the sand. If Islington, Hackney, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne are

uniquely culpable, then what need is there of demonstration effects? And unless the "high-spending" councils are responsible for exceeding the Treasury's targets year after year what is the argument behind the Government's wish for a general power to set the spending of each and every council in England and Wales?

In seeking to get the Labour-controlled city authorities squarely in the sights of his selective scheme Mr Jenkin is asking Parliament for elastic powers, so extensible he might as well name his list of guilty councils now and save tedious committee discussion. But no, the Bill bends over itself to involve Parliament at various stages of naming councils and setting their spending. Mr Jenkin's schemes appear perfectly manageable if councillors cooperate in good faith. That is unlikely and the prospect is one of huge bargaining sessions involving civil servants, ministers and members of Parliament and stretching over several months. The Bill says there are to be 45 extra civil servants - at first, without a significant increase in the time devoted by central offices to the detail of local spending the Bill poses grave dangers of maledministration.

It also calls into question the consistency with which the Government is prepared to tackle the issue of local spending. The councils on Mr Jenkin's

little list are endearingly termed under another departmental rubric "partners": Hackney and Islington and the rest receive special money under the Inner Urban Areas Act. Rate-capping shoots a hole clean through inner cities policy for it really no longer makes much sense for more than £400 million to be pushed into special projects for precisely those areas from which Mr Jenkin hopes to save hundreds of millions. To make rate-capping work will involve not only his own officials speaking with a single voice. It will not do for the departmental ministers responsible for schools and social services and law and order to hold themselves aloof from the battles to come. Rate capping means cuts in departmental empires.

For the long and short of rate-capping is jobs. The bulk of local spending pays for the employment of street-sweepers, professional "volunteers", teachers, nuclear-free-zone officers; the Rates Bill will succeed in its own terms if and when the manpower watch for local authorities resumes its downward movement. During the months of this bill's Parliamentary passage there will, and rightly, be talk of constitutions, the balance of power in the state, ministerial dictatorship. But if it passes, the focus will have to shift to a lower plain. Numbers of staff in town hall and school staff room will be the arithmetical test of its success.

Royal commission for London's future

From Mr Geoffrey Alderman and others
Sir, The proposals to abolish the Greater London Council and replace it with appointed bodies must be deeply worrying to anyone with a concern for genuine local democracy and long-established constitutional conventions.

A constitutional change of such importance is out of keeping with its brief, last-minute inclusion in the Conservative Manifesto. The issue has not been clearly discussed in public, nor did it play a significant role in the election campaign.

Constitutional changes of such magnitude must be based on a large measure of agreement. The right course now, as in the past, is to establish a royal commission to make proposals for more effective elected local government in London - and in the six metropolitan areas - and for Parliament to consider its report and to take account of the views of the citizens both in London and the metropolitan boroughs. A royal commission preceded the ending of the LCC and the establishment of the GLC.

The Government proposes, during the transition period, to replace a democratically elected council with a body of substitute councillors nominated by the 32 London boroughs without any further election either at the GLC or borough level. The political composition of the boroughs is well known. Not merely does it threaten the principle of elected local councils, but it threatens to bring fundamental constitutional arrangements into an angry and uncertain partisan future.

The abolition of the GLC would make London the only capital city in the civilized world without a directly elected governing council. A century of democratic local control of London-wide services would end and a basic shift of power to the central state would begin.

The Government's scheme, moreover, in its White Paper, *Stream-*

Violation of human rights in Turkey

From Mrs Diana Spearman
Sir, It is natural that the distinguished university teachers who signed the letter (December 14) attacking the Turkish Government's educational policy should be disquieted by the reported dismissal of a number of Turkish academics. The reference in the letter to "university autonomy", however, shows a certain lack of knowledge of the background.

Arguments for autonomy are undermined if the universities are unable to prevent political differences escalating into such violence that the universities were, before 1980, closed for months at a time. Both members of the staff and students died in these disturbances. I have heard criticism of the Army, from those who did not wholeheartedly support the military government, for not going in and restoring order before the military takeover. Moreover, the National Security Council were promoting a complete reconstruction of university education.

In the paragraphs relating to the prosecution of the members of the "peace movement" the letter almost gives the impression that the signatories believe that academics and intellectuals should be exempt from the law. If the prosecution allegations are correct there is no doubt that the members of the peace movement were guilty under Turkish law, a law with which they must have been familiar.

The sentences may seem heavy for the offences, but in considering sentences passed by Turkish courts one has to remember that while one is in the habit of imposing long sentences, Turkish governments frequently proclaim amnesties from which everyone benefits, except those who have committed offences against the forest laws. If you kill a man you can in all probability look forward to a fairly early release; if you cut down a tree you stay inside.

It is a pity that that letter repeats the statement that the law against communism was copied from Mussolini's Italy. Atatürk was quite capable of judging communist law for himself and he did not like it. As he always expressed the greatest contempt for Mussolini and disliked what he knew of fascism it is most unlikely that he sought inspiration from Italy. Communism is not the only creed banned by the various Turkish Constitutions: fascism and Islamic fundamentalism are equally prohibited. I remain etc,
DIANA SPEARMAN,
7 Lord North Street, SW1,
December 15.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY ALDERMAN (Royal Holloway College),
BERNARD CRICK (Birkbeck College),
J. A. G. GRIFFITH (London School of Economics),
G. W. JONES (London School of Economics),
GERALD MANNERS (University College, London),
TREVOR SMITH (Queen Mary College),
A. D. G. SMART (University College, London),
As from: Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street, WC1,
December 15.

Conventional query

From Lord Gladwyn
Sir, The American film called *The Day After* - not nearly horrible enough in my own opinion - was in any case less significant than the subsequent discussion, more especially the contribution of Robert McNamara. At last the real issues are becoming clear to the average intelligent citizen.

Your excellent correspondent, Ronald Butt, is a case in point. He acknowledges (feature, December 15) the strength of the McNamara argument in favour of "No first use", already for some years advanced by Lord Carver, Lord Zuckerman and myself, but perceives in it a flaw. Supposing, he says, the Russians attacked and were not successful owing to a, in itself desirable, reinforcement of Western "conventional" defences, would they not, in order to avoid "defeat", themselves, threaten the use of which the West had already "renounced"?

But the flaw is in this suggestion. There is no question, except in the CND, of the West's "renouncing" nuclear weapons: only the first use of such weapons. The Russians, in the event contemplated, could not so threaten the West unless they were themselves prepared to accept nuclear annihilation. Nor would the Soviet Government, in such an event, necessarily have to accept "defeat". There would no doubt be some sort of negotiated settlement. It is even more evident that, should the West successfully rearm, there would be no war of any kind.

It is quite true, on the other hand, that if the Russians attacked with "conventional" weapons only and were successful, as they might well be if the West is really unable to strengthen its "conventional" defences, the West, having renounced "first use", could not seek to redress the situation by nuclear means and might therefore have to accept "defeat". But to any rational mind such "defeat" would be preferable to national annihilation. For "defeat" might, one day, be rectified: annihilation is for ever.

The hope, however, is that the Soviet Government will never launch an offensive which, even if "successful", might result in the breakup of its "empire". For they can hardly benefit from having a ruined and potentially rebellious Europe on their hands. In the past the Russians, I believe, have never directly attacked any major Power: they have simply profited by the weakness of their neighbours.

Yours truly,
GLADWYN,
House of Lords.

On the other hand, if Dr Daunt-Fear wishes to rely on legal annulment, he will find the scope of the court he will find the scope of the present law of nullity in England to be too limited to cover more than a small proportion of the cases anticipated by the Synod.

"Option G" remains the only practical compromise open to the Anglican Church.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BUSTON,
40 Cadogan Place, SW1,
December 14.

From Mr Lewis Massey
Sir, In his report ("Antifreeze test led by garage", December 13) Robin Young says that the West Midlands County Council has been unable to find a satisfactory method of testing antifreeze.

For those who have a domestic refrigerator with a deep-freeze compartment, or a freezer, the test is very simple. Take out a couple of teaspoons of coolant from the car radiator or expansion tank, pour it on a saucer, and leave it for an hour or so in the freezer or deep-freeze compartment.

If the antifreeze mixture is correct, the liquid will not freeze solid but will turn mushy, even at a temperature of -20°C, far lower than is likely to be encountered in a normal British winter.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS MASSEY,
20 Orchard Rise, Groombridge, Kent,
December 13.

From the Reverend Graham Buston
Sir, Dr Daunt-Fear (December 13) is perhaps too optimistic. The experience of the Roman Church in assessing nullity after legal divorce shows that the procedure can be far from simple as a study of Mr Ralph Brown's book, *Marriage Annulment*, makes clear, nor is it inexpensive. Yet a less thorough investigation would probably be unacceptable to Anglicans.

photographers who contribute to the *Survey of London* and advise on everyday development control within the planning system.

Those familiar with the same problems in provincial cities know that it is to some extent a matter of accidents of personality or local interests whether sites and buildings are adequately investigated and recorded, whether or not they are preserved. There are still great variations between parts of the country arising from our system of local government and reliance in part on voluntary activity.

The special power of the GLC enable it to provide a comprehensive and well informed response to proposals for change.

The *Survey of London*, for which the GLC is entirely responsible, is

universally acclaimed. Furthermore, the latest volume in the *Buildings of England* series, *London 2: South*, about which your reviewer, Michael Ratcliffe (*The Times*, November 30) was properly enthusiastic, could not have been remotely as good as it is without access to archives of the division and to the knowledge which its staff has acquired.

The division must be kept together, without dilution of its powers or dispersal of its staff.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE BARLEY,
ALEX CLIFTON-TAYLOR,
PETER ADDYMAN,
JOHN ASHDOWN,
60 Park Road, Chislehurst, Nottingham,
December 7.

Beirut to carry out a peace-keeping task, should we show the consequences - which are likely to be disastrous - of President Reagan's misconceived policies.

It is useful to remember that, as far as the United States is concerned, the Middle East is not an issue of foreign policy; it is an important factor in the domestic political equation, especially in the run-up to a presidential election. Mr Reagan and his associates are less concerned with keeping the peace than with winning votes and campaign contributions. There is no good reason for the rest of us to lend him our support in this direction.

Britain's objective should be to reconcile the parties in the Lebanon and then to work for an equitable solution of his Palestinian problem. In both contexts we should take care to dissociate ourselves from the partisan policies of the United States.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
Middle East International, 21 Collingham Road, SW5,
December 18.

From Mr Charles Fyfe
Sir, In his review in *The Times* of December 8, Sandy Wilson writes: "The gongster being a policeman who at that time, used to chase speeding motorists beating, if you can believe it, a gong."

No, I can't, because he didn't. To be "gonged" meant you had been pursued by a police car that sounded a bell; mechanically sounded, not manually.

In fact the bell was used until replaced by the horrible French-style donkey bray now in use.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FYFFE,
52 Holmdale Road, NW6,
December 4.

FROM ONE DEFEAT TO ANOTHER

When Mr Yassir Arafat left Beirut in August 1982 it was widely felt that he had succeeded in turning military defeat into moral and political victory. Though easily overrun in South Lebanon, his men had fought with surprising tenacity in Beirut against overwhelming odds, and Israel, in her attempt to crush them, had used methods which earned her the almost unanimous obloquy of world opinion. The Palestinians sailed from Beirut with their heads held high, apparently certain that their movement would live on.

That illusion of victory has cost them dear, for it enabled them to avoid facing up to the consequences of what had in fact been a serious defeat. Mr Arafat himself seemed to realise that his only hope of capitalising the moral victory in Beirut was to make clear the PLO's willingness to accept a peaceful compromise settlement with Israel, to be achieved through the good offices of the United States. He even realised the importance of not turning down President Reagan's peace plan, in spite of the fact that it ignored the PLO and ruled out an independent Palestinian state, and he worked hard to achieve a common negotiating platform with King Hussein of Jordan. But he lacked

the moral stature to spell out the implications unambiguously, and in the end he was unable to carry his own supporters with him. Then, in May this year, all the long-stuffed grievances against his leadership within the movement boiled over in the mutiny in the Bekaa, which the Syrian regime, having grievances of its own, was quick to exploit.

Political gambits are subject to a law of diminishing returns. The moral benefit which Mr Arafat got from resisting the Israelis in the streets of Beirut has hardly been revived by the repeat performance staged against Syrians and fellow-Palestinians in the streets of Tripoli. True, he has succeeded in putting his opponents in the wrong. But he himself emerged from Tripoli yesterday a diminished and tawdry figure.

Even the considerable propaganda coup which he achieved in extremis by negotiating the release of 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in exchange for six Israelis was spoiled when his group claimed responsibility for the murderous attack on a Jerusalem bus, which was disowned publicly even by some known PLO supporters on the West Bank. The subsequent suggestion by his lieutenant,

"Abu Jihad", that the civilian vehicle might have been hit "by mistake" is on a level with the IRA statement after the Harrods bomb. In both cases, the only encouragement to be drawn from it is that at least the authors of both statements now realize that indiscriminate attacks on civilians carry a high political cost. In the circumstances Israel's determination to deny Mr Arafat a comfortable departure from Tripoli is understandable, though by prolonging the end-game she will hardly have endeared herself to his increasingly unwilling hosts, the Lebanese.

Mr Arafat is now on his way to Tunis, but the expectation is that he will soon be back in Amman trying to pick up the threads of his dialogue with the King. That would be a wiser course than trying to restore the unity of the PLO, since the latter could now be achieved only on Syrian terms. It is not easy to believe now that Arab sovereignty will ever be restored on the West Bank, but the Reagan proposals are still formally on the table and Jordanians and Palestinians have yet to try the effect of a direct approach to Israel. They should now do so, for they have precious little left to lose.

PERILOUS VICTORY IN JAMAICA

Jamaica has a key role to play in President Reagan's attempts to revive both economic prosperity and American influence in the Caribbean. It is to be not only a reliable friend but also a model for neighbouring states, demonstrating that private enterprise brings better results than the state-controlled system promoted by Cuba. Mr Seaga, who became Prime Minister shortly after the election of President Reagan, has received massive economic help and political support from Washington.

Unfortunately his decision to call an early election has not brought him quite the type of endorsement he needs. Mr Michael Manley, leader of the People's National Party, ducked out, alleging unfair electoral rolls but probably also aware that in spite of severe economic difficulties Mr Seaga would still win. The result is that the country faces virtual one-party rule for the next five years, which Mr Seaga himself recognizes to be unsatisfactory. He has offered opposition and neutral poli-

ticians seats in the Senate but this will not make for healthy politics at a time when considerable adjustments are going to be required if Mr Seaga's programme is to be successful.

Mr Seaga led his right-wing Labour Party to power after the 1980 election dedicated to the task of reviving Jamaica's moribund economy. Poor world prices for bauxite and a sugar crop depleted by storms and lack of investment were among his problems - along with a \$1,600m foreign debt. He promised "deleverance".

It looked at first as if he might indeed deliver - and in one or two respects he has. The violence which saw 900 people shot dead in the 10 months preceding the 1980 election has given way to law and order, and tourism has picked up in consequence. He negotiated a large programme with the International Monetary Fund and began to get inflation down - to below five per cent at one stage. But the recovery has not been sustained.

Inflation on the eve of the election was running at 18 per cent, unemployment at 26 per cent and factories, far from participating in an industrial revolution, were working well below capacity. The foreign debt has risen to more than \$2,300m, generating a debt servicing requirement which absorbs most of the island's foreign exchange. A 43 per cent devaluation preceded the election. Like so many developing countries at a time of world recession, Jamaica finds itself on a slippery slope and unable to keep its footing.

Moreover, economic forecasts have been less than sanguine, so Mr Seaga's real difficulties may be just beginning. Indeed, some experts expect that economic pressures will force the Labour government to go to the country again within a year or two. Will Edward Seaga be third time lucky? A picture of Fidel Castro is still prominently displayed in Mr Manley's office. Mr Seaga's victory will have pleased Washington but it will be no cause for complacency.

only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid."

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua." From the record one might ask of the situation in Nicaragua: State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid."

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua." From the record one might ask of the situation in these countries: is Marxism-Leninism the cause, or the effect?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL,
Wylye Head, Kilmington, Wiltshire.

Church and remarriage

From Mr R. W. Mott
Sir, The Venerable Dr Daunt-Fear asks (December 13) why the Church of England has not given greater consideration to granting decrees of nullity of marriage.

Nullity means that there was no marriage, for lack of consent or consummation. How can the Church declare null a marriage that has lasted for 10 years, that has produced children and that everybody, including the Church, recognised as a marriage at the time? How can the Church explain to children of the marriage that it has discovered, rather late in the day, that their parents were not married at all?

Moreover these subtleties would mean taking the matter out of the hands of priests and bishops and handing it over to lawyers, who would find a new source of income in dressing up divorce as nullity. Let us stick to the present proposals. Yours faithfully,
R. W. MOTT,
136 Lakenheath, Southgate, N14,
December 13.

From the Reverend Graham Buston
Sir, Dr Daunt-Fear (December 13) is perhaps too optimistic. The experience of the Roman Church in assessing nullity after legal divorce shows that the procedure can be far from simple as a study of Mr Ralph Brown's book, *Marriage Annulment*, makes clear, nor is it inexpensive. Yet a less thorough investigation would probably be unacceptable to Anglicans.

London's buildings

From Professor Maurice Barley and others

Sir, The Historic Buildings Division of the GLC is unique and it is fortunate for Britain that London should have built up, since 1901, an organization which responds so effectively to problems arising from the impact of the present on the remains of the past.

The division constitutes the nearest approach in Britain to an integrated response to those problems. It contains, within one open office, the whole range of skills and information, from a works section responsible for the 1,000 historic buildings and monuments owned by the GLC to architects, historians, archaeologists, draughtsmen and

Threat in El Salvador

From Mr John Weatherill

Sir, In his letter of December 12 Sir Alfred Sherman conveys the impression that Nicaragua is fuelling the guerrilla action against the purportedly democratic regime in El Salvador. Another report from David De Voss in *Time* magazine (December 12) based in San Salvador, conflicts dramatically with Sir Alfred's.

According to De Voss, the El Salvador guerrillas not only occupy strongholds throughout the country but for the past year have relied almost totally upon captured US weapons, not upon arms smuggled in from Nicaragua, or from Cuba or the Soviet Union. The Salvador Army, it seems, lacks the will to fight the guerrillas.

Another important point that should not be allowed to escape is that Washington, even as it supplies

arms to El Salvador, continues to be uncomfortable about the regime's appalling human rights record. You, Sir, not too infrequently, have published reports of massacres allegedly committed by the Salvadoran Army, the most recent, I believe, on November 18 of 118 men, women and children carried out by a "crack American-trained Salvadoran Army battalion", from which a child escaped to give witness.

Added to such events, and according to El Salvador's Human Rights Commission, the notorious "death squads" have killed an estimated 40,000 people during the past four years. The State Department has assembled lists of suspected death squad leaders which include officers in the Salvador National Guard and treasury police. Of this situation Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression

Saved from the gong

From Mr Charles Fyfe

Sir, In his review in *The Times* of December 8, Sandy Wilson writes: "The gongster being a policeman who at that time, used to chase speeding motorists beating, if you can believe it, a gong."

No, I can't, because he didn't. To be "gonged" meant you had been pursued by a police car that sounded a bell; mechanically sounded, not manually.

In fact the bell was used until replaced by the horrible French-style donkey bray now in use.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FYFFE,
52 Holmdale Road, NW6,
December 4.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Prudential sets up 'own' London broker

Prudential-Bache Securities, a subsidiary of the Prudential Insurance Company of America, world's biggest insurance company, is setting up its 'own' London Stock Exchange member firm. The nucleus of it is Mr Ashley Down, head of corporate finance at James Capel one of London's leading stockbroking firms, and his deputy in the same department, Mr Christopher de Boer. Mr Down had expressed a wish some time ago to leave the partnership for personal reasons. Mr de Boer resigned on Monday. "Their going is a disappointment to us," was Capel's comment, "but we still have 63 partners left".

Prudential-Bache will own 29 per cent of the new firm the Stock Exchange describes as a "joint venture". That is the maximum permitted under Stock Exchange rules but Prudential-Bache has an option to acquire the balance if and when the rules are changed. In the interim most of any profits will accrue to the American "junior" partner.

The new firm will offer UK and Continental research and corporate finance services to British institutions and companies and to Prudential-Bache clients wherever they may be. To that end the new firm will recruit among other firms, bearing in mind also that the maximum it can take in captive commissions from Prudential-Bache is 20 per cent of the total.

Mr Jim Barton, head of Prudential-Bache international and commodity divisions in New York said the new firm would be recruiting 25 to 30 staff almost immediately, who would be offered the normal profit-sharing and bonus schemes. It would be capitalized, initially, at £500,000 although substantially more would be made available as the business grows. It would be incorporated as a limited company.

Britain's leading financial institutions, have some £300 billion under management of which 37.5 billions is thought to be invested abroad. "Obviously as our research capabilities grow," Mr Barton went on, "we hope to attract substantial business, both going into Britain and coming out. Hopefully a lot of it".

Prudential-Bache traditionally had built

its own businesses rather than bought into existing companies. "We could not wait for the rules to change to allow us a majority holding. We have hired professional expertise, at least we believe so, to build a new company brick-by-brick."

What many leading London brokers had feared, the poaching of senior staff by foreign rivals, has arrived quicker than expected.

A company with the Prudential's strength behind it should not be long in establishing itself as a power in London. Ironically the Prudential took over and restored Bache, Halsey Stewart in 1981 after Wall Street had undergone the same form of restructuring now beginning in London. It hopes that it has set an example for other American companies.

By the same token Prudential-Bache's initiative may accelerate decisions among British bankers, brokers and other financial institutions who are either huddled together in discussions about possible umbilical ties or carefully examining their navel for directions which way to jump. The Bank of England, in its new role as Stock Exchange monitor as well as its traditional role as the City's Keeper, is naturally concerned. In the December Quarterly Bulletin the Bank sees scope for a greater efficiency.

The Bank accepts that "foreign participation" in London will increase, but "it is important that this should be matched by the international involvement of strong groupings of British-owned institutions, which will no doubt emerge".

The Bank has shown no sign so far of positive discrimination in favour of domestic parties in the reshuffles taking place. But it is believed that two of the five important stockjobbers have already opted for home links.

Alroyd with S. G. Warburg, Smith Brothers with NM Rothschild. The Bank's priorities include ensuring adequate investor protection and a market in which it can sell government debt. The name to conjure with in the gilt-edged market is Wedd Duracher. It will surely announce a new partner soon, and it must be all Lombard Street to a China orange that the preferred institution will be British, not foreign.

Dog-days lose their bite

The stock market was predicting as much a year ago and official statistics are now proving the point: company profits are recovering sharply from the dogdays of the recession. The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin records that profits rose by nearly 50 per cent between the first halves of 1981 (the pit of the recession) and 1983. Figures from the Central Statistical Office yesterday suggest that this trend is still accelerating: industrial and commercial company profits were nearly one-third higher in the third quarter compared with a year earlier. If you strip out North Sea operations the recovery is even more impressive. Profits rose by 35 per cent in real terms between the first half of 1981 and the first half of this year, after a similar fall in the previous three years.

It would be wrong to infer from these comparisons that everything is coming up roses in the corporate sector. For a start a 35 per cent rise in profits after a 35 per

cent fall does not leave the sector where it started five years ago. It is still well short of the starting line.

Companies have been benefiting from the rise in output while big gains in productivity mainly due to shedding people, have helped to keep down unit labour costs. That said, the real rate of profitability, probably back over 6 per cent compared with 2-3 per cent in early 1981, is still low; "lower not only than in the 1960s but also than in 1978", and according to the Bank, "well below the level necessary for a healthy rate of investment".

The Bank nonetheless is quite optimistic about an imminent recovery in investment because of industry's improved profitability and much stronger financial position - company liquidity's now as strong as at almost any time in the last 10 years.

Lloyds spends £23m to lift stake in Royal Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank has spent £23m on increasing its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland Group from 16.4 per cent to 21.3 per cent, but denied any plans to make a bid. Lloyds said yesterday that the move was aimed at strengthening its position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house.

Lloyds, whose chairman is Sir Jeremy Morse, owns 60.3 per cent of the finance house at present and has long wanted to buy Royal Bank's 39.3 per cent stake. The two banks have been unable to agree a deal and Mr Brian Pittman, group chief executive of Lloyds, said it was worried that a third party would enter the fray.

"You can see that if a third party did come in and acquire a part of the Royal Bank of Scotland, this could give us some difficulty in acquiring the remaining part of Lloyds & Scottish. We feel that a larger holding in Royal Bank would help to secure our position," he said.

Although Lloyds approached Royal Bank with a view of taking it over before Royal Bank agreed to merge with



Sir Jeremy Morse (left) and Mr Sidney Procter: no talks on Lloyds & Scottish



Sir Jeremy Morse (left) and Mr Sidney Procter: no talks on Lloyds & Scottish

Standard Chartered in 1981, Mr Pittman was adamant that a bid was not on the cards, although he did not rule out the possibility of buying more shares.

Royal Bank's 1981 merger plans with Standard Chartered were thwarted when the Hong-kong and Shanghai Bank put in a £500m bid and both takeovers were subsequently blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

However, the shake-up in financial markets and suspicion

that the British authorities might now look more kindly on a takeover has helped to revive bid speculation recently.

This was one of the reasons Lloyds moved and its action fuelled speculation yesterday. Royal Bank's shares jumped 25p to a year's high of 202p.

Royal Bank has consistently denied any knowledge of a predator and been unable to shed any light on the sharp movements in its share price in recent months.

Mr Sidney Procter, chief

executive of Royal Bank, said yesterday there were no talks going on about Lloyds & Scottish with Lloyds Bank. "They have always wanted Lloyds & Scottish. We have made no secret of the fact that if we could agree on a price we would sell," he said. He added that Lloyds & Scottish must be looking for improved profits and Royal Bank would not want to sell at the bottom.

The finance house's profits tumbled from a peak of £29.2m pre-tax in the year to September 30 1981 to £10.8m the following year. But in the first half of 1982-83 profits picked up from £6.5m to £10.6m.

Lloyds won control of Lloyds & Scottish in March 1981 when it launched a bid valuing the group at £240m, immediately after Standard Chartered and Royal Bank announced merger terms.

Lloyds rapidly took its existing stake above 50 per cent through market purchases and subsequently agreed terms to buy Royal Bank's stake once the Standard Chartered merger went through. But the deal fell through.

Lloyds paid 205p a share for the 11.25 million shares it bought in Royal Bank to take its stake up to 21.3 per cent.

Index close to 770

The equity market continued to scale fresh heights yesterday, with investors' demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT 30-share index closed at its high for the day, 777 up at a record 769.8.

Benefiting from the thin conditions were Cadbury Schweppes, up 8p at 117p, Distillers 6p to 227p, GKN 6p to 177p, Imperial Group 3p to 137p, Lucas 7p to 168p, TI Group 6p to 170p and Vickers 6p to 128p. Some swift footwork was needed by the jobbers to keep themselves out of trouble as the lack of sellers continued to cause them problems.

But with the Christmas celebrations continuing to dominate proceedings, turnover generally remained low. Second-line stocks showed few signs of support, except in the case of bid situations and trading results.

Gilt-edged rises of up to 2½ in longs, helped by the continued rally in the value of sterling against the dollar. By the close, it showed a rise of 5 pence to \$1.4190.

Analysts remained hopeful that the equity market can maintain its momentum in the New Year, but few of the big City institutions appear anxious to open new positions until after Christmas.

Market report, page 17

SE names lay members

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Stock Exchange yesterday announced the names of the first five lay members in its history. The five outsiders - two industrialists, a merchant banker, an academic and a pension fund manager - have been appointed as part of the wide-ranging package of reforms agreed with the Government earlier this year in the controversial compromise on the future of the exchange.

The five are Mr Robin Adams, deputy chairman of BP; Mr Alan Clements, finance director of ICI; Mr John Hull, deputy chairman of Schroders; Mr Hugh Jenkins, director general of investments at the National Coal Board pension

fund; and Professor Robert Jack, a partner of solicitors McGrigor Donald and partner professor of mercantile law at Glasgow University.

As lay members, the five men will become full members of the Stock Exchange's council, attending the fortnightly council meetings and contributing to the exchange's policy discussions and decisions. Under the agreement thrashed out between the Government, the Bank of England and the chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the lay members are intended to provide independent outside advice and experience similar to that provided in industry by non-executive directors.

The lay members will also make up the Stock Exchange's membership appeal committee.

Mr Hull, a former director general of the Takeover Panel, said last night that the lay members included a number of big users of the stock market.

Mr Adams, 60, is retiring shortly from BP and will be taking over as chairman of MEPC, Mr Clements has been at ICI since 1956. Prof Jack, a specialist in company law, is 55 and a lay member of the Council for the Securities Industry. Mr Jenkins, 50, is one of the best known pension fund managers in the City, and has been with the coal board since 1963.

Japanese joint deal for Oxford Instruments

By Andrew Cornallius

Oxford Instruments, which makes a super magnet forming the core of body scanner technology, yesterday announced a joint venture to make its magnets in Japan.

It is to set up a manufacturing company with Furukawa Electric, in Japan, and Far East sales of about £300m are expected in the next decade.

Dr Peter Williams, group managing director at Oxford, which was launched on the London stock market in October, said that the Japanese market for the magnets, which match the US market by 1986.

The company, Furukawa Oxford Technology, Dr Williams said, would manufacture and deliver its first magnets in Japan by the middle of next year.

Supply contracts have been negotiated with a leading Japanese company.

Toshiba, Hitachi and Shimadzu are the three leading companies which have won approval to sell the scanners in Japan.

Dr Williams said that Oxford has no competition to supply the magnets, which make up about one-third of the final £700,000 cost of each scanner.

However, he said, other companies were bound to try to develop their own magnet technology and that the arrangement would make it easier to sell the Oxford products.

Production will be centred at Furukawa's site at Chiba, 40 miles from Tokyo. Eventually, 100 people will be employed by the company.

When shares in Oxford Instruments were offered on the stock market the sales were oversubscribed 9.2 times, making it one of the most popular issues this year.

The company developed its world-beating technology from humble beginnings when it was set up on a part-time basis by Dr Martin Wood, a Cambridge engineering graduate, 25 years ago.

Its most famous product is the magnet used in the new body scanners, which have made X-ray medical diagnosis obsolete.

Other products include instruments and systems for monitoring patients, for materials analysis, and control of industrial processes.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 769.8 up 7.7
FT 30 Shares: 62.70 up 0.08
FT All Shares: 464.87 up 1.35
Bargains: 21,120
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.1 up 0.02
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1245.73 up 1.12
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,627.93 up 81.74
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 858.53 up 1.28
Amsterdam: 155.1 down 0.3
Sydney: AO Index 757.8 up 2.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1021.2 up 2.9
Brussels: General Index 134.79 up 0.31
Paris: CAC Index 149.2 up 0.1

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4190 up 5pts
Index 81.9 down 0.2
DM 3.9275 down 0.0050
FF 11.9850 down 0.01
Yen 333.25 down 2.0
Dollars
Index 130.8 down 0.4
DM 2.7678 down 0.0052
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4195
Dollar DM 2.7660
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.574539
SDR £0.71832

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
3 month interbank 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10%
3 month DM 8%
3 month FF 13%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 10%
100%
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 3, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$375.40 pm \$378.10
close \$377.50-378.25
(2286-286.50)
New York latest: \$377.75
Kruggerand (per coin): \$388.50 (\$274.25-275.25)
Sovereigns (new): \$88.25-89.25 (\$62.25-63).
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

£7.5m rights issue by Carlton

Carlton Communications, one of Britain's leading independent television production companies, yesterday announced a one-for-five rights issue to raise £7.5m net at 300p a share.

At that price the issue means an 85p discount to the market's ruling level. Money from the issue will help Carlton to explore actively the American market, which has more than 1,000 television stations and accounts for 50 per cent of the world television market.

Carlton also announced a £2.7m profit for the year compared with £1.7m last year. Mr Michael Green, chairman, said: "All divisions showed good growth."

● Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange were slightly higher in early trading with the Dow Jones industrial average up 1.5 points at 1,246. About 8 million shares had been traded.

● Senior partners of Conrad Riblat, the big commercial estate company, are in negotiations to buy out the major part of the 50 per cent shareholding owned by British Land and a deal could be struck by March. British Land yesterday declared its first interim dividend in more than a decade and reported a 6 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £3.6m.

Investor's Notebook, page 16

● Rank Xerox has been released by the Government from some undertakings relating to the sale of plain paper copiers imposed after a 1976 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report found some Rank Xerox trading practices were against the public interest. Since then a big growth in competition in copiers has eroded Rank's earlier dominance of the market.

Sarasin rescue 'should go to Dunlop board'

By Wayne Listell

Samuel Montagu, merchant bank advisers to Pegg Malaysia Berhad, the group that holds just under 7 per cent of Dunlop, said yesterday that the rescue proposals from Sarasin International Securities for Dunlop should, in the first instance, be made to the board of Dunlop.

Sarasin had said that its £40m rescue plan depended on the support of the Pegg group. Sarasin proposes to inject £40m cash into a new company, which would then make an all share offer for Dunlop.

The statement said that Pegg fully supported Sir Maurice Hodgson, the chairman of Dunlop.

But the Pegg representatives, in London for this week's Dunlop board meeting, made

no comment on whether they would meet with the Sarasin representatives to discuss the proposals.

Sarasin has had informal talks with Sir Maurice over the proposals, but no statement was issued on the conclusions.

Samuel Montagu also clarified Pegg's position over the now defunct plans for Pegg to buy out Dunlop's Malaysian interests.

The bankers said that when the £25m deal to acquire Dunlop's Malaysian industries failed last Friday it was mutually agreed that the proposed transactions should not proceed.

"Pegg wishes to make clear that there are at present no debts outstanding from Pegg to Dunlop."

Pattern of foreign investment in Britain is changing

EEC multinationals look overseas

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has been warned in a new study of multinational investment strategies that it would be unjustified to devote substantial resources towards attracting European investment into Britain over the next decade.

All the signs, say the study, are that higher levels of fixed, direct investment from EEC countries will be directed to non-European destinations; and that Continental European investment in Britain largely is aimed at supplying this market, rather than acting as a supply point for wider market areas.

The investigation, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office, the Welsh Office and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, is the work of Professor Neil Hood and Mr Stephen Youngm

project directors at Strathclyde University, and two project researchers, Dr Alan Reeves and Mrs Margaret Milner.

Their 389-page report includes a detailed survey of 140 British or Irish-based affiliates of American or European multinational enterprises.

The investment that is likely to come to Britain in the next decade may increasingly be in a different form, with greater emphasis on joint ventures, licensing and other cooperative forms of involvement, says the report.

The most substantial opportunity, say the authors, lies with Japan. "The size of this opportunity and the speed with which it develops is, however, dependent upon trends in trade policy and in exchange rates."

Since Japanese direct investment in developed countries is

a relatively recent phenomenon, the report finds difficulty in predicting the form it will take, even if a substantial flow towards Europe begins.

"Elsewhere, Japanese investment has shown a propensity towards joint ventures, but this is largely in developing countries."

"Other low-risk strategies may be expected in Japanese investment into Europe in the light of international production experience within many Japanese corporations."

Elsewhere, the report says that British agencies should conduct a comprehensive study of the relative effectiveness of the British inward investment.

A study is important, it says, since a growing proportion of world trade and technological innovation is associated with the direct investment process.

Hambros halves Australian stake

Hambros Bank has completed the sale of 50 per cent of its Australian subsidiary, Hambros Australia, in accordance with the assurances it gave the Australian Government five years ago when it set up the company.

Hambros Australia has increased its value from A\$2m (£1.25m) in 1978 to A\$24m.

Assent Transport Industries, the Australian independent airline, and Repco Corporation, the automotive engineering group, have each acquired 20 per cent of the company. The Australian management had acquired 10 per cent with Hambros London retaining 30 per cent.

Assent and Repco will each appoint two directors to the board of Hambros Australia and are each injecting A\$4m of new capital. The strengthening of the company will allow it to broaden existing operations and pursue new opportunities which are under investigation.

S. Simpson plc

"... we have set ourselves a still higher target for next year and approach the challenge with confidence."

J.P.N. Mengers, Chairman

Principal Group Activities

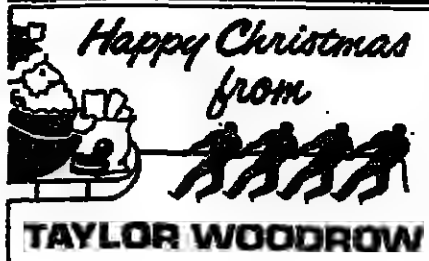
- **Manufacturing** — DAKS menswear, womenswear, rainwear and leisurewear for UK and export
- **Licensing** — DAKS clothing and accessories produced locally in major world markets
- **Distribution** — The "DAKS Companies" range of accessories
- **Contract** — Activon, suppliers of tailored clothing to Marks & Spencer
- **Retailing** — Simpson Piccadilly, London's leading speciality store

Results in brief

	1983	1982
Year ended 31st July	£'000	£'000
Turnover	27,028	22,949
Profit before tax	843	402
Profit after tax	651	271
Ordinary Dividends	253	222
Earnings per share	10.13p	4.14p

Copies of the Report & Accounts can be obtained from
The Secretary,
34 Jernyn Street, London, SW1Y 6HS

DAKS LONDON



MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Virani sells Norfolk stake

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 28. Contingency Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

about 6 million shares, or 31 per cent of the total, closed unchanged at 39p.

Costa. There were also vague rumours that Distillers, 6p higher at 227p, was casting an appreciative eye over Tate & Lyle, 8p dearer at 373p.

Only last week a line of 2.75 million shares in Tate & Lyle, believed to be owned by Hanson Trust, were placed in the market with an unnamed buyer.

There is a growing belief among the institutions that Mr. Tari, the sports equipment and packaging group, may soon be the target of a bid. The shares held steady at 265p yesterday - just 11p short of the high. Word is the asset backing of 60p a share could attract a bid as high as 50p.

Mr. Tari, chairman of the group, said: "If we are to be bid for, nobody has told me."

The renewed flow of money into the coffers of the building societies has focused attention on the private housebuilders. Laing & Cruckshank, the stockbrokers, has taken a shine to Crest Nicholson, which it says has been overlooked by the recent recovery in building shares. The profits slide in the current year has already been discounted and Laing is looking to prepay profits of £8.5m next year against £6.7m in 1982. The shares were unchanged at 97p.

run with renewed demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT index closed 7.7 up at a new high of 769.8.

Cadbury Schweppes climbed 8p to 117p still reflecting a bullish circular on food manufacturers from brokerickers

bid and offer price of the five leading oil shares this week resulting in bigger costs for investors. BP lost 5p at 388p, Britoil 5p at 181p, Shell 10p at 348p and Ultramar 7p at 597p. Burnish was the only big producer to resist the trend, climbing another 5p to 175p on bid speculation.

BRITISH FUNDS

1982/83	High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

DOLLAR STOCKS

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Stock Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

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100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

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100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982/83 High Low Company Price Ch % Div Yld

100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100%	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

140%	140%
177	177
685	685
INVE	
75	75
495	495
89	89
221	221
163	163
350	350
163	163
320	320
162	162
106	106
137	137
123	123
87	87
161	161
163	163
273	273
84	84
259	259
84	84
84	84

Stoddard is picking itself off the floor

By Vivien Goldsmith

Stoddard Holdings, the troubled Scottish carpet manufacturer, is inching its way towards profitability. It cut pretax losses in the first six months of the year from more than £1m to £397,000.

Mr Gordon Hay, the chairman, said the company could well be trading in the black by the end of the financial year. But the pretax figures would probably still be in the red.

The trading loss for the first half was cut back from £543,000 to £164,000. The group is ahead of the targets set by a three-year recovery plan put into operation by Mr Hay last year.

We are in front of our timetable, so we are hoping to cut it down to 2.5 years or something of that order," said Mr Hay.

All the factories in the group have increased output to meet higher demand. The rise in borrowings from more than £4m to more than £5m is in anticipation of further rationalization and reorganization. The integration of Stoddard Carpets with Templeton Carpets was completed in October.

The sales forces have been merged, and most of the 180 redundancies announced have been implemented. "The merger with Templeton has been less traumatic than expected," said Mr Hay.

Stoddard has a healthy order book, particularly in the woven and bonded market, but although trends look favourable for the second half, much depends on the final quarter of the financial year.

Lloyds names money market treasurer

Lloyds Bank: Mr David Turner has been appointed treasurer, responsible for the bank's money-market division. He succeeds Mr Albert Agar who has retired.

Freemans: Mr Anthony Rampton, chairman, will retire after the annual meeting on May 31, next. Mr John Broome has been made a director from January 1. He will be deputy chairman until taking over Mr Rampton as chairman on June 1, next.

Rothmans International: Mr Jeremy Campbell succeeds Mr Leslie Sari as secretary from January 1.

Charterhall: Mr Maxwell F. Shepherd and Mr John A. Brimley are being appointed directors from January 1. Mr Julius Levinson is retiring as a director but will continue as a consultant. Mr Robert C. O. Hellyer becomes secretary. Mr Keith R. Holder is being

APPOINTMENTS

appointed a director of Charterhall Oil. Mr Alan T. Morton retires from the board of Charterhall Oil after his appointment as operations director of Charterhall Australia, the groups recently acquired Australian listed company.

Haden Young: Mr Derek Gillingham becomes managing director on January 1. He was previously deputy managing director and now succeeds Mr Geoffrey Clarke who is retiring. Mr Ellis Davenport, Mr Tony Northcott, Mr Fred Perryman and Mr Carl Wheldrake, at present regional directors, have been appointed assistant managing directors with special responsibilities for individual operating regions of the company.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		T/C		N/L	
Robust in 50 lb tonnes					
Coffee, Robusta	11,000-11,200	Aluminum	1,080-1,100		
Coffee, Arabica	11,000-11,200	Three months	1,110-1,130		
Cocoa, 1st grade	11,000-11,200	Three months	4,000		
Gold, 999.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Silver, 999.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Platinum, 999.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Palladium, 999.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Nickel, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Copper, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Zinc, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Vanadium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Chromium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Manganese, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Silicon, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Titanium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Vanadium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Chromium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Manganese, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Silicon, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Titanium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Vanadium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Chromium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Manganese, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Silicon, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
Titanium, 99.9 in 100 gms	11,000-11,200	Three months			
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SKIING

Stenmark's Cup ambition lifted by another victory

Madonna di Campiglio, (Reuter) - The triple World Cup winner Ingemar Stenmark returned to the scene of his first World Cup win in 1974 to score a clear victory in the slalom race here yesterday, to stay on course to achieve his aim of winning the slalom world cup this season. His second win in the discipline in just over a week put him top of the slalom standings with 50 points.

"I'm in good shape" Stenmark said. "My motivation is good because I didn't train too much. At my age you don't need it."

Stenmark, aged 27, dominated both legs of the event. Leading after the first leg, he was coolly produced the fastest second leg to clock a total winning time of 1 min 36.89 sec for his 74th World Cup Victory. The pre-race rankings were upset by the Austrian Robert Zoller. A surprise second in the first leg,

Zoller, high number starter confirmed his return to fitness after a ligament injury last season by holding on to his place despite almost running into a gate near the bottom of the course.

Third place was taken by Bulgarian Peter Popangelov, who improved on his seventh place in the first leg, and the Italian Alex Giorgi delighted the crowd with an aggressive second run that pushed him into fourth place ahead of the Swedish Stig Strand, who dropped from third place on the first leg.

Notable absentees were the American twins Phil and Steve Mahre, who returned home last week to prepare for their traditional burst of form at the end of January.

The steep course, dropping 170 metres, was too much for the Swiss prodigy Pirmin Zurbriggen, aged 20, who stood to pick up vital points from the

combination with his win in the Val Gardena super giant slalom on Monday. The young Swiss, clearly feeling the pressure to produce a good result, skied off in the first leg while trying too hard to make up time lost in the early stages.

The combined honours went to the former world cup champion Andreas Wenzel of Liechtenstein, whose ninth place yesterday combined with his sixth in Monday's super giant slalom.

Zurbriggen has kept his overall top place in the World Cup standings with 97 points with his compatriot Franz Heinzer second on 87, but Wenzel has moved into third place on 85 ahead of Stenmark (59).

RESULTS: 1. Stenmark (Sw), 1 min 36.89 sec; 2. Zoller (Aust), 1:37.02; 3. Popangelov (Bul), 1:37.46; 4. Giorgi (Ita), 1:38.05; 5. Strand (Sw), 1:38.46; 6. Wenzel (Lich), 1:38.46; 7. Zurbriggen (Swi), 1:38.67; 8. F. Beck (Ger), 1:39.02; 9. De Santis (Ita), 1:39.44; 10. J. Gasser (Swi), 1:39.46; 11. T. Koller (Aust), 1:39.79; 12. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 13. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 14. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 15. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 16. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 17. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 18. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 19. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02; 20. J. Koller (Aust), 1:40.02.

OVERALL STANDINGS: 1. Zurbriggen 97pts; 2. Heinzer 87; 3. Wenzel 85; 4. Stenmark 59; 5. U. Hubner 50.

● Hana, Austria. (AFP) - The women's World Cup downhill race, which was in doubt because of adverse weather conditions, will go ahead today as planned. Mild weather and rain had earlier threatened a change in the programme for both today and Thursday. However, after inspecting the cause the jury decided that racing can take place.

Had the conditions continued, the downhill would have been put back 24 hours, which would have meant the cancellation of tomorrow's giant slalom.

● Toronto (Reuter) - The Canadian skiers have returned home for their Christmas break for early season races in Europe confident they can win the World Cup downhill title. Todd Brooker leads the standings after twice finishing runner-up in the early races and he said: "I'm having a lot more fun. I've also eased off a little in training to save a little for race days."

The former World Cup downhill champion, Steve Podborski, is fifth. "Knowing that the pre-Christmas races really haven't been ideal for our abilities - relatively slow, soft snow, relatively easy - is all the better," he said.



Stenmark: fastest man on two legs

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 Unless stated
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP Group Four
Yugoslavia v Bulgaria (G.O.)

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Boston v Washington

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Southampton v Warrington

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Exeter v Bath

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa v Burnley (7.0); Second division: West Bromwich Albion v Newcastle (7.0); Nottingham Forest v Stoke (7.0); Second division: Port Vale v Middlesbrough (7.0)

FOOTBALL: CONCOMINATION: Luton v Brighton (8.0); Hibernian v Greenock (8.0); Oxford v Charlton (8.0); Reading v Birmingham (8.0)

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Aston Villa v Manchester City (8.0); Tottenham v Ipswich (8.0)

RUSSIAN LEAGUE: Second division: Moscow v Volgograd

RUSSIAN LEAGUE: First division: Spartak v Dynamo (8.0)

CLUB MATCHES: Aston Villa v Cross Keys (8.0); Newcastle v Gloucester (7.0); Portsmouth v Torquay (8.0)

OTHER SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY: First Anglian League (Thetford)

CRICKET: Public schools singles championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington, 8.0)

SKIING CONDITIONS

Depth (cm) U. Piste Conditions Run to Weather (°C)

Arosa 45 80 Good Powder Good Fine -1

Grindelwald 10 30 Good Powder Good Fine -2

More snow is needed for all runs

Igls 5 35 Worn Powder Closed Fair +2

New snow on hard base

Isola 2000 45 100 Good Powder Good Cloud 0

Snow forecast tonight

Kitzbühel 5 80 Good Powder Closed Fine -1

New snow on upper slopes

Mürren 45 60 Fair Powder Fair Fine 0

Worn patches on some runs

La Plagne 10 50 Good Powder Fair Cloudy -5

Good skiing but need more snow

Seefeld 30 50 Fair Powder Fair Fine 1

New snow on hard base

St Anton 35 85 Powder Fair Fair -1

Good powder skiing

Tignes 65 106 Good Powder Good Fine 0

Some rocks showing

Andorra 50 60 Fair Powder Fair Fine -4

Limited runs more snow needed

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, 1 refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

MOTOR RACING

The 1984 Lotus has a leaner look

By John Blunsden

There will be no excuses, there are no unknowns and we have to deliver. That was the message of Peter Warr, general manager of the Lotus team, yesterday at the unveiling in Paris yesterday of the Lotus 900T challenger for 1984, the JPS 90T.

"It is now approximately a year since the death of Colin Chapman and, not surprisingly, we have been through a somewhat traumatic 12 months. The character of the team has had to change but we have found our new identity and we have our new style of management."

The cars which Nigel Mansell and Elio de Angelis will be driving next

year look superficially similar to the 94T they used in the latter part of this year. However, they are very different beneath the skin. Gerard Ducroux has designed a car smaller, lighter and slimmer than its predecessor.

Part of the size reduction has been brought about by the restriction in the maximum fuel tankage to 220 litres, but the much needed packaging of the latest version of the Renault turbo-charged engine, with its turbo-charger and intercoolers mounted vertically, has also contributed to the leaner look.

The Lotus team have decided to

return to Goodyear tyres and the 95T has been fitted with Italian-made Brembo brakes all round. The suspension is basically similar to that of the previous car except that the rock-er-arm front layout has been replaced with a pull-rod system which offers cleaner aerodynamics.

Nigel Mansell, frustrated at the team's lack of wins this year, was full of enthusiasm yesterday. "Peter Warr has put a great package together for 1984 and Gerard Ducroux's new design looks like it will be a winner. He has taken full advantage of the new fuel regulations and he has worked hard on the aerodynamics."

The Lotus team have decided to

Olympic couple seek out the climate of success

Malcolm and Sarah Cooper, the husband and wife international shooting team, will set out on Friday on a 26,000 mile round trip in search of a combination of intense heat, dust and wind.

The Coopers are to spend five weeks in Patuxent, South Australia, experiencing the sort of testing conditions they will have to overcome in California next year as they are to climb the medal rostrum in the Olympic games.

"The Olympic shooting range will be about 40 miles inland from Los Angeles," said Mrs Cooper. "The temperature will go up around 100 degrees and the dust, glare and wind will make it extremely difficult. It was absolutely vital for us to train in similar conditions."

She said that they had looked at a number of locations, but Australia came out top. "Apart from the climate, it was important to go to an English-speaking country because of all the questions that are raised when you are carrying rifles."

"We will be staying at the home of Yvonne Hill, an Australian teacher who is very likely to be selected for her Olympic team. She is pleased we are going as it gives her a chance of some valuable competition."

The trip is likely to cost around £3,000, although some of the outlay will be covered by grants from the Sports Aid Foundation and the British Olympic Association.

"We have emptied the building society account, but it will be worth it," said Mrs Cooper, 34 who, with



Target: The Los Angeles Games

her husband, works in a sports goods company. "Thankfully, British Airways are helping with excess baggage."

The couple first met at a shooting range 14 years ago when she was in the WRNS. This year Mrs Cooper beat her husband into second place in the British Senior Open air rifle championship, winning by three points. Her husband was prompted to say: "Enjoy it - you will not get another chance to beat me in the championship."

Women's shooting will be part of the Olympic programme for the first time next year. They will have three events, two of them for rifle shooting - 30 metres standard, three

positions and the 10 metre air rifle, 40 shots standing.

"I am very excited about the prospect of competing in the games for the first time," said Mrs Cooper. Both she and her husband should gain a place in the British squad, to be selected after a series of international matches next summer.

Malcolm has competed in two Olympic games, in 1972 and 1976. Both she and her husband should gain a place in the British squad, to be selected after a series of international matches next summer.

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RACING

Burrough Hill Lad can underline his Chepstow chance

By Michael Phillips

Today's meeting at Lingfield Park was given the go-ahead yesterday after the stewards had inspected the course midway through the afternoon. However, they added the proviso that it would only take place if there was no heavy rain during the night. So, clearly the meeting rests in the lap of the gods, so does the one at Worcester where there will be an inspection at 7.30 this morning.

Jenny Pitman has taken the precaution of declaring Burrough Hill Lad, the ante-post favourite for the Welsh National at Chepstow on December 27, for the St Nicholas Handicap Steeplechase at Worcester as well as the Vidi Perpetual Challenge Trophy at Lingfield. However, Burrough Hill Lad and John Francombe will switch to the Midlands course only in the event of Lingfield being abandoned.

Burrough Hill Lad's only race this season was over hurdles at Nottingham earlier this month and Mrs Pitman is understandably keen for him to jump fences at racing pace again before his important date at Chepstow. A leg injury restricted Burrough Hill Lad to just three races last season.

What that highly promising race over hurdles at Nottingham showed was that he has made a complete recovery and is once more in the sort of form that enabled him to win good races at Stratford and Ascot last season as well as finishing second to Silver Buck in the

Edward Hanmer Memorial Steeplechase at Haydock. In that case he should be hard to beat this afternoon.

If Lingfield is on, Francombe can also win the Plum Pudding Steeplechase on Observe at the expense of the course specialist, Straight Jocelyn, whose seven victories there include one in this same race 12 months ago.

Fred Winter has declared Observe to run wearing blinkers for the first time in public. He has worn them already at home while being schooled over the practice fences on the downs above Lambourn. Winter feels that they are now necessary because Francombe reported that Observe was "pulling his leg" and not giving his all during that recent controversial race at Chepstow. There Francombe used his whip to wake him up and incurred the wrath of the stewards for doing so quite as hard as he did.

Meanwhile, at Worcester, Dramatis's chance of winning the St Nicholas Handicap Steeplechase will be improved immeasurably if Burrough Hill Lad stays away.

Speedy Bee, my selection for the second division of the Christmas Novices Steeplechase, was jumping well and still going well at Haydock Park last Thursday in the race won by Red Mills when he slipped

Saxon Farm hurt

Stan Mellor's hurdler, Saxon Farm, may not run this season, and will miss the Champion Hurdle. Winner of this year's Triumph Hurdle, Saxon Farm injured himself at the weekend.

Lingfield Park

GOING: chase course, soft, hurdles, heavy.

Tote double: 1.30, 2.30, Treble: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0.

12.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £1,095: 2m) (21 runners)

1 JACK HANMER (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
5 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
6 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
7 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
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13 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
14 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
15 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
16 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
17 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
18 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
19 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
20 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
21 TIDDINGTON (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

1.0 BRANDY BUTTERFLY CHASE (selling: novices: £785: 2m) (11)

1 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
5 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
6 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
7 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
8 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
9 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
10 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
11 ALLIANCE (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

1.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £1,097: 2m) (21)

1 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
5 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
6 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
7 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
8 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
9 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
10 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
11 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
12 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
13 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
14 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
15 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
16 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
17 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
18 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
19 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
20 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
21 ATAT OF IRELAND (A) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

2.0 PLUM PUDDING CHASE (£1,436: 2m 4f) (4)

1 OBSERVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 OBSERVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 OBSERVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 OBSERVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

2.30 MAC VILL TROPHY (handicap chase: £2,830: 3m) (16)

1 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
5 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
6 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
7 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
8 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
9 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
10 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
11 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
12 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
13 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
14 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
15 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
16 THE SWALLOW (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

3.0 MINCE MEAT CHASE (handicap: £1,450: 2m 8f)

1 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
5 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
6 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
7 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
8 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
9 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
10 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
11 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
12 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
13 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
14 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
15 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
16 BALLYCROSS (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

3.30 GOODWILL HURDLE (handicap: £1,150: 2m) (16)

1 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
2 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
3 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
4 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
5 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
6 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
7 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
8 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
9 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
10 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
11 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
12 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
13 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
14 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
15 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11
16 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCormack 11-11 J. P. B. 11-11

3.45 NAYAD BRAVE (D) (M) (Stewards) M. McCorm

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

Celest AM
 Breakfast Time with Frank and Saffa Scott. News from Farn Britain at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 8.40 and 8.45; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 8.55; review of morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; Esther Rantzen's That's Life between 7.30 and 7.45 with a phone-in between 8.30 and 8.45; pop music news from Mike Smith between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.35.

The New Adventures of Fish Gordon. The first of a new series of 13 programmes featuring Fish and his companions, Dale Arden and Zanthor 9.20 Battle of the Planets (19.45 Blue Peter Special) documentary about Marie Antoinette's life at Versailles (10.30 Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft) (10.55 Gherbo) Among the items is Parveen Maza talking to the Rev. Rainer Daniel of the Smithwick about the significance of Christmas 11.20 Enid and the Detective. Part one of a two-part Walt Disney adaptation of Eric Koster's classic tale (12.05 Look Back with Noakes. A review of the Go With Noakes series.

News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles) 1.00 Peabody film at One includes Joe Los and his Orchestra 1.45 Hockey Cockey 2.00 Bank Holiday Fair. A visit to Hampton Court's fair (1.30) 2.15 East Side of Heaven (1939) starring Bing Crosby as a crooning cab-driver who finds an abandoned baby. Directed by David Butler 3.53 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Milbank and Ian Lauchlan 4.20 The Adventures of Bulwer and Rocky. Jackanory. Jan Francis with part three of Peter Pan 4.40 School Teacher's Champion of Champions. The winner and runners-up of the 1982 and 1983 contest in the final programme of the series 5.05 Newswatch with Paul McQuinn and Peter Carr's War. The final episode.

Sixty Minutes includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40; regional news magazines at 5.53; weather at 6.15; and closing headlines at 6.38.

Harty With Rod Hull and Emu, the Only Fox and Horses team, and Sharon Stevens.

Film: Swimming Bay (1971) starring Dean Martin, Brian Keith and Honor Blackman. Lighthearted western about a gang leader who ransoms the colonel's wife for a large gun with which he intends to pull off a big bank raid. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen.

News with John Humphrys.

E.Q.D. Eyewitness. Evidence... Fact or Fiction? A follow-up to last week's programme which ended with a staged mugging. Viewers were asked to identify the mugger. Tonight sees the results of the response (see Choice).

Film: The Fog (1979) starring Jamie Lee Curtis. A night of terror awaits the population of Antonio Bay as fog begins to descend. Directed by John Carpenter (first showing on British television).

News headlines.

Barbara Mandrell with her sisters and guests Bobby Vinton and Andrea Crouch (1.30) 2.00 Weather.

BBC 2

Good Morning Britain presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton. A review of the morning newspapers at 6.25; news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 8.55 and 9.00; and 7.40 exotics at 8.45. John Stapleton with a guest in the Spotlight at 7.05; the Star of Bethlehem scene continues 7.35; pop video at 7.55; Desmond Morris's magic moments at 8.05; TV-am's Christmas hamper awards at 8.15; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35; and the cooking club at 8.50, 9.00 Poland's Winter Wonderland.

THE LONDON
 9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street where the Muppeteers make learning seem simple 10.25 Film: Mysterious Island (1951) starring Michael Craig. John Greenwood and Herbert Lom. An adventure romp based on a story by Jules Verne. Directed by Cy Endfield.

Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family 12.10 Rainbow (12.30) Look Who's Talking. With Derek Bailey, talking about his life and career, is comedian Charlie Williams.

News with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news from Robin Houston 1.30 Robert Meyer - A Debt Repaid. A documentary celebrating the 100th birthday of one of the world's greatest patrons of music. The narrator is Bernard Levin (1.20) 2.00 Country Road. A documentary about a medical practice in the Australian outback 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

Emu's World at Christmas. Rod Hull and his erratic pet discover a medieval kingdom 4.45 Madabout. One of the many items is a trip to the Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands 5.15 Different Strokes.

News 5.00 Thames news.

Help! Comedy action news. 5.35 Crossroads. Paul Ross opens his mouth and lands himself a charge that he is a racist.

News That Time. Tom O'Connor presents another in the series of fast moving musical quizzes.

Concorde Street. Rita learns a little more about why Len was where he was when he died while the pigeon race of the decade ends in controversy when the winning bird crosses the line in unusual circumstances.

This is Your Life. Another worthy's emotions will be reduced to jelly by Eamonn Andrews and his big red book.

Up the Elephant and Round the Castle. Comedy series about the adventures of a cockney boy.

Chesapeake. More mystery for Dr Audley and his team of sleuths when an Oxford professor thinks that the mysterious death of one of his students is the beginning of a communist conspiracy.

News 10.00.

Film: The Long Riders (1980) starring David, Keith and Robert Carradine and Stacy Keach. The James brothers and the Youngers decide to go straight - but before they do they think they will pull one more train robbery. Directed by Walter Hill.

Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. by Zia Kruger. A young bride finds she is unwelcome on her husband's estate (1.10).

A Different Christmas. Gillian Reynolds talks to someone who will be enjoying an alternative Christmas to the traditional.

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News 10.00.

CHANNEL 4

Film: Every Girl Should Be Married (1948) starring Cary Grant. Betty Hutton and Franchot Tone. A romantic comedy in which Grant plays an unmarried doctor who becomes the object of a shopgirl's desire. Unfortunately for the girl, her employer feels the same way about her. Directed by Don Hartman (first showing on British television).

News summary with subtitles.

A Wedding on Walton's Mountain. A Walton's Special. The first of three, reuniting the characters of the series. The Waltons. The year is 1947 and Eli is engaged to Paul Northridge, but they cannot agree on a wedding date. While they are dithering, Ashley, Eli's former fiancée, returns, hoping to persuade her to think again about the marriage. Directed by Lea Phillips.

Championship Darts Special. The first of two programmes of highlights from darts competitions shown on BBC this year. Tony Gubba, the English Professional, Championship at the Costham Bowl, Redcar.

Nature. The last programme of the series that looks at wildlife and the issues affecting the living world. Presented by Tony Soper (see Choice).

King with the last of his weekly series that explores the entertainment world of North America. Tonight he is in New York where he presents a programme with a distinctive Christmas atmosphere.

Music for Christmas. From the Westminster Theatre, London. Steve Race introduces another in the series of light-hearted musical contests between Frank Muir and John Arlott against Denis Norden and Ian Wallace.

Barry at Skelmorlie. The second and final part of the concert recorded last August when the American singer performed before an audience of 40,000 in the grounds of Skelmorlie Palace.

News and weather.

Film: The Roads of Eddie (1978) starring Francis Simon and Dominique Labourier. The first showing on British television for Swiss director, Claude Goretz's powerful biography of the latter half of the 18th century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. It traces his search for a hospitable country after he is hounded from France following the publication of his book, Emile. The second and final part of the film is on this channel tomorrow at 11.10 (subtitles). Ends at 12.25.

News 11.45.

CHOICE

● Tonight's last programme in the present Q.E.D. series is a follow-up programme to the ending of last week's edition when a staged mugging was shown. Viewers were invited to telephone in with the identity of the mugger. In EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE... FACT OR FICTION? (BBC1 9.25pm) Dr Anthony Clare analyses the responses of the viewing public at the same time proving that the human mind is extremely fallible - instanced in one case where a viewer recalled the accent of the mugger's speech. A film clip he did not speak. With a succession of tests Dr Clare gives the viewers a chance to test his or her power of recall and a

chastening experience that turns out to be. The Q.E.D. cameras were also at a court in West Virginia for the trial of James Adams, accused of armed robbery after being arrested on the evidence of three eyewitnesses - a diverging entertainment for the viewer but not so for the innocent incarcerated on the strength of the dubious memory of a bystander.

● BBC Bristol's excellent NATURE series (BBC 2 8.30pm) comes to the end of its present run in bloodthirsty fashion tonight when Brian Leith volunteers his body for treatment by leeches. Recent research has proved that this centuries-old method of treating many ailments is, in some cases, more effective than modern medicine.

● **SEQUENCES:** Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/272m; Radio 2: 68.3kHz/433m; 80.9kHz/330m; Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m; VHF 90-92.5; Radio 4: 150.0kHz; VHF 92-95; LBC 115.2kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 154.8kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 145.8kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World: 15.0kHz/433m.

● **REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS**

● **Wales:** 12.57pm-1.00pm News of Wales. 1.00pm-1.30pm News of Wales. 1.30pm-1.55pm News of Wales. 1.55pm-2.00pm News of Wales. 2.00pm-2.15pm News of Wales. 2.15pm-2.30pm News of Wales. 2.30pm-2.45pm News of Wales. 2.45pm-2.55pm News of Wales. 2.55pm-3.00pm News of Wales. 3.00pm-3.15pm News of Wales. 3.15pm-3.30pm News of Wales. 3.30pm-3.45pm News of Wales. 3.45pm-3.55pm News of Wales. 3.55pm-4.00pm News of Wales. 4.00pm-4.15pm News of Wales. 4.15pm-4.30pm News of Wales. 4.30pm-4.45pm News of Wales. 4.45pm-4.55pm News of Wales. 4.55pm-5.00pm News of Wales. 5.00pm-5.15pm News of Wales. 5.15pm-5.30pm News of Wales. 5.30pm-5.45pm News of Wales. 5.45pm-5.55pm News of Wales. 5.55pm-6.00pm News of Wales. 6.00pm-6.15pm News of Wales. 6.15pm-6.30pm News of Wales. 6.30pm-6.45pm News of Wales. 6.45pm-6.55pm News of Wales. 6.55pm-7.00pm News of Wales. 7.00pm-7.15pm News of Wales. 7.15pm-7.30pm News of Wales. 7.30pm-7.45pm News of Wales. 7.45pm-7.55pm News of Wales. 7.55pm-8.00pm News of Wales. 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